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Foul weather fails to dampen spirits at Paw Paw Days

Despite cloudy skies and some rain, it didn't dampen the spirits of those who participated and attended the 2025 Paw Paw Days, held Saturday, July 26, in downtown Paw Paw.
Photos courtesy/Paul DeYoung

Body discovered near Mattawan Creek

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

MATTAWAN - The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office reported on Friday, July 25, the discovery of a deceased man in the Village of Mattawan, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Based on initial findings, it appeared to be an isolated incident, and there is no ongoing threat to public safety, according to Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott. Sheriff Abbott said the identity of the deceased man has been confirmed as the individual reported missing last month from Mattawan.

An autopsy determined that the cause of death was self-inflicted.

Out of respect for the family, the name of the deceased man and the family were not released.

Several weeks ago, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office took a missing person report involving an individual from the Mattawan area. The original report and circumstances at the time did not indicate any suspicious activity or foul play, according to Sheriff Abbott.

The investigation has been closed. Detectives from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office were assisted by the Michigan State Police and the Mattawan Police Department.

"We appreciate the community's understanding and ask for continued patience and respect for the family during this difficult time," said Sheriff Abbott.

Sheriff Abbott urges that if you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, help is available and to call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988.

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Work on Maple Island Pedestrian Bridge underway

The Maple Island Pedestrian Bridge is currently being removed and replaced with a new bridge this summer. Work began earlier this month. Maple Island Park will be closed for the duration of the project, which is anticipated to run through October. The parking lot across the street from the bridge will also be closed, as it will be used for equipment staging. There will be a period of approximately 10 days to 2 weeks during the project where there will be noise from pile driving. The new bridge pilings must be driven 30 feet below the lake bed. This activity will be limited to daytime hours and not at all on Sundays.
Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Dumpsters vandalized at Paw Paw Schools construction sites

PAW PAW - It was recently brought to the attention of Paw Paw Public Schools and reported to local law enforcement that several dumpsters around PPPS bond project construction sites have been the target of missing materials, equipment or other unscrupulous activities, which is illegal and unfortunate.

"Thankfully, in one situation that occurred at a construction site dumpster, a family on bikes keenly observed a situation as it was unfolding, promptly called the police, and shared a license plate number and vehicle photos. The individual(s) were identified, and charges have been pressed," said PPPS Superintendent Jeremy Davison.

Davison added, "In addition to the dozens of security cameras in and outside the buildings, we are asking for the public's help in reporting any suspicious activity in or around the building sites on campus. If you see something suspicious, please contact the local police or call the superintendent's office at (269) 415-5200."

He concluded, "We appreciate the public's cooperation in showing respect for the construction sites around our district. Those sites, the equipment and materials left outside, and the contents of the dumpsters are all considered private property, and it is illegal for anyone to take things from those sites. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation."

Road Commission begins work on Red Arrow Highway

LAWRENCE - The Van Buren County Road Commission began work Monday, July 28, along Red Arrow Highway from County Road 681 west to the Hartford city limits. The project will be accomplished by Michigan Paving and Materials Company and involves milling the existing asphalt surface and re-paving the roadway at a cost of approximately $1,136,935.

One lane of traffic will remain open throughout the duration of the project, which is expected to take approximately four weeks, including final restoration. Flaggers will be stationed to assist motorists and ensure safe, efficient traffic flow through the work zone.

Van Buren County Road Commission Managing Director Bret Witkowski expressed his thanks to the motoring public for their patience and cooperation while this work is being accomplished. "We are confident you will find that the long-term benefit of this road improvement project will outweigh any temporary inconvenience you may experience."

Anyone with questions regarding the project is urged to contact the Van Buren County Road Commission by phone at (269) 674-8011, or by email at: vbcrc@vbcrc.org.

Van Buren Conservation District honors several at annual meeting

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

SOUTH HAVEN - Hunt's Hillside Family Farms was named the Van Buren Conservation District's 2024 Farm of the Year, while Barbara Norman received the 2024 Van Buren Conservation District's Conservationist of the Year Award. The awards were presented Wednesday, July 23, during the Van Buren Conservation District's annual meeting, director election, and summer picnic, held on the grounds of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, here .

Each recipient received state Special Tributes.

Hunt's Hillside Family Farms' state Special Tribute read in part, "This multigenerational farm continues to serve as a pillar in the Southwest Michigan community. In 1951, Clyde and Naomi Hunt founded Hunt's Hillside Family Farms, growing juice grapes and raising hogs. Today, the second and third generations of the family continue to care for the property. Clyde's son, Jim, and grandson, CJ, have carried on the family legacy, growing and expanding the farm to include new crops and innovative technology. Today, at Hunt's Hillside Family Farms, they are growing wine grapes, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, haskaps, flowers, and pumpkins. The Hunts also offer camping on the farm, allowing visitors to experience the beauty of Southwest Michigan. Hunt's Hillside Family Farms plays a vital role to the community by producing fresh food, preserving green spaces, and contributing to the local economy."

CJ serves as vice president of the Michigan Grape Society, where he helps organize educational events for fellow farmers. Jim has been involved with shaping Van Buren Conservation District educational programs and promoted their pesticide container recycling program.

The tribute concluded, "Both Jim and CJ are pillars in the agricultural community for their dedication to the preservation and improvement of farming practices in Michigan."

Barbara Norman's state Special Tribute read in part, "We are grateful for her dedication and heart of service to Van Buren's agricultural community. Barbara has worked alongside Van Buren Conservation District for decades, building a legacy of land stewardship that has touched farms across Southwest Michigan. She played a foundational role in launching the Farm Research Cooperative, an innovative center that brings together research, education, and firsthand support for small-scale farmers."

In 2024, Norman hosted the Van Buren Conservation District's Annual Grazing Day at the Cooperative, displaying practical techniques in pasture-based systems and welcoming a wide range of producers and conservation professionals.

"Barbara's natural leadership brought innovation and growth to Van Buren Conservation District. Barbara has been a consistent and passionate advocate for small family farms, especially those led by minority and underserved farmers. She has worked tirelessly to connect growers with USDA programs, often drawing from her own experiences as a blueberry farmer and community leader. Her efforts have helped expand access to conservation practices like cover cropping, composting, no-till planting, and organic soil health methods throughout Van Buren and surrounding counties.

It concluded, "Beyond her agricultural work, Barbara's leadership has also been recognized nationally through oral history projects with the Library of Congress and other institutions, where she has shared stories of generational landownership and resilience among Black farmers in the Midwest. Her voice, wisdom, and grounded approach has inspired fellow growers and a new generation of conservationists."

Van Buren Conservation District employee, Abbie Bristol, was honored for her five years of service to the conservation district. She also serves as leader of the SW x SW Corner CISMA Team. The certificate of appreciation cited Bristol's "creation and growth of the Invasive Species Strike Team and exemplary leadership in management, education, and restoration."

Flowers take center stage at Lawrence show

The 79th Lawrence Flower Show was held Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26, at the Van Buren Intermediate School District's Conference Center in Lawrence. Hosting the event was the Lawrence Garden Club. This year's event theme was "Fantasia in Flowers." Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Welfare check led to assault on deputies and paramedic

BLOOMINGDALE TWP. – Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that on Monday, July 21, at approximately 10:30 p.m. Sheriff's deputies responded to the 03000 block of 37 1/2 St., Bloomingdale Township, to check the welfare of an individual at the residence.

A family member called with concerns for the resident's well-being. Deputies were able to make entry into the residence with the assistance of the family member. After announcing their presence several times, a male ran out from one of the bedrooms near where two deputies were standing. The male ran toward both deputies, striking both deputies with a metal object before falling to the ground. A taser was deployed by a deputy and after a short fight with the individual, he was able to be handcuffed.

Sheriff Abbott said the two deputies received medical treatment for injuries sustained from the incident. The 41-year-old suspect was transported to the Van Buren County Jail on charges of assault with intent to maim, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of resisting/obstructing police causing injury, and one count of assaulting/resisting/obstructing a paramedic.

The investigation is ongoing.

Sheriff's Office reports nearly 2,500 traffic stops for first half of year

For the month of June, Van Buren County Sheriff's Office deputies had 373 traffic stops, which puts the total number of stops for the year at 2,435. In June, deputies handled 886 calls for service, putting them at 4,901 for the year. Dispatch handled 5,885 calls for service in June which encompasses fire departments, EMS, law enforcement, wreckers, animal control, etc. Dispatch has a total for the year of 32,484 calls for service.

"Our Detective Unit executed a search warrant in Waverly Township with our Uniform Response helping execute it. After an in-depth investigation, the suspect was lodged for CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) and computer crime," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a domestic violence call in Paw Paw Township. After investigating the incident, the husband was lodged for assaulting his wife. "I would like to remind the public that if you suspect child abuse or witness a domestic assault, you can call our office anonymously to report it. Kids especially rely on adults to protect them, and when someone knows or sees children being abused and don't report it, that's not fair to that child or children," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our office just purchased a DJI Avata 2 FPV Drone. The drone was purchased with forfeiture funds which is through our office, Michigan State Police (MSP), and the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office. The drone will be used for various things in our line of duty," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a larceny of a UTV in Arlington Township. A John Deere Gator was stolen from residence. "It's a XUV550, green in color, has custom John Deere wheels, black netting on the back of the cab, and an interior light mounted on the inside of the roof top. Anyone with any information is asked to call our office," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputies handled a trespassing call in Antwerp Township. While enroute, the unknown subject entered the residence in which the people who live there did not know him. "Deputies were able to get to the scene before the individual left. He was lodged for the incident and does not live in that area but several miles away," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a two-vehicle PIA (personal injury accident) in Geneva Township. "The investigation found that the eastbound vehicle was turning into a business when it was struck by a westbound vehicle that had the right of way. One of the vehicles started on fire, and Good Samaritans stepped in to remove the driver and put out the fire with their fire extinguisher," said Sheriff Abbott. One driver was transported to the hospital by SHEAS and the other went by POV (personal owned vehicle) for their injuries.

Uniform Response handled a minor PIA (personal injury accident) in Porter Township. The driver left the roadway hitting several trees. Deputies investigated the incident and found the driver was intoxicated. She was lodged for the incident.

"A huge thank you to everyone who came out and supported our youth at the Van Buren Youth Fair. It's always a great event and great to see our youth so heavily involved in it," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a welfare check in Bloomingdale Township. After being let in by a family member, the individual that was being checked on ambushed the two deputies on scene with a metal object. "The deputies were able to taze the individual during the assault and put him in custody. The injuries were serious on the sergeant and will now require him to be on light duty for several weeks. The suspect is now facing several felony charges," said Sheriff Abbott.

Poultry Barn at Youth Fair donates eggs to The Porch

The Poultry Barn at the Van Buren Youth Fair, held July 14-19, collected 32-1/2 dozen eggs from the poultry project all week and donated them at the end of the weeklong fair to The Porch in Paw Paw. The exhibitors in the small animal barns raise their animals to show and sell at the Small Animal Auction during the fair. Many buyers donate the meat from the sale to The Porch. Pillars Manufacturing donated all processing fees for those purchases. Last year, the Poultry Barn donated 25 dozen eggs to The Porch. Megan Miller and Jennifer Miller delivered the eggs Monday, July 21, to The Porch, where The Porch Director Tony Harrop met the two Poultry Superintendents. Courtesy photo/ Van Buren Youth Fair Poultry Barn

Driver faces child endangerment charge following vehicle crash

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

BLOOMINGDALE TWP. - A 25-year-old Bloomingdale area woman faces several charges, including child endangerment, after she was involved in a one vehicle crash late Monday night, July 28, in Bloomingdale Township, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

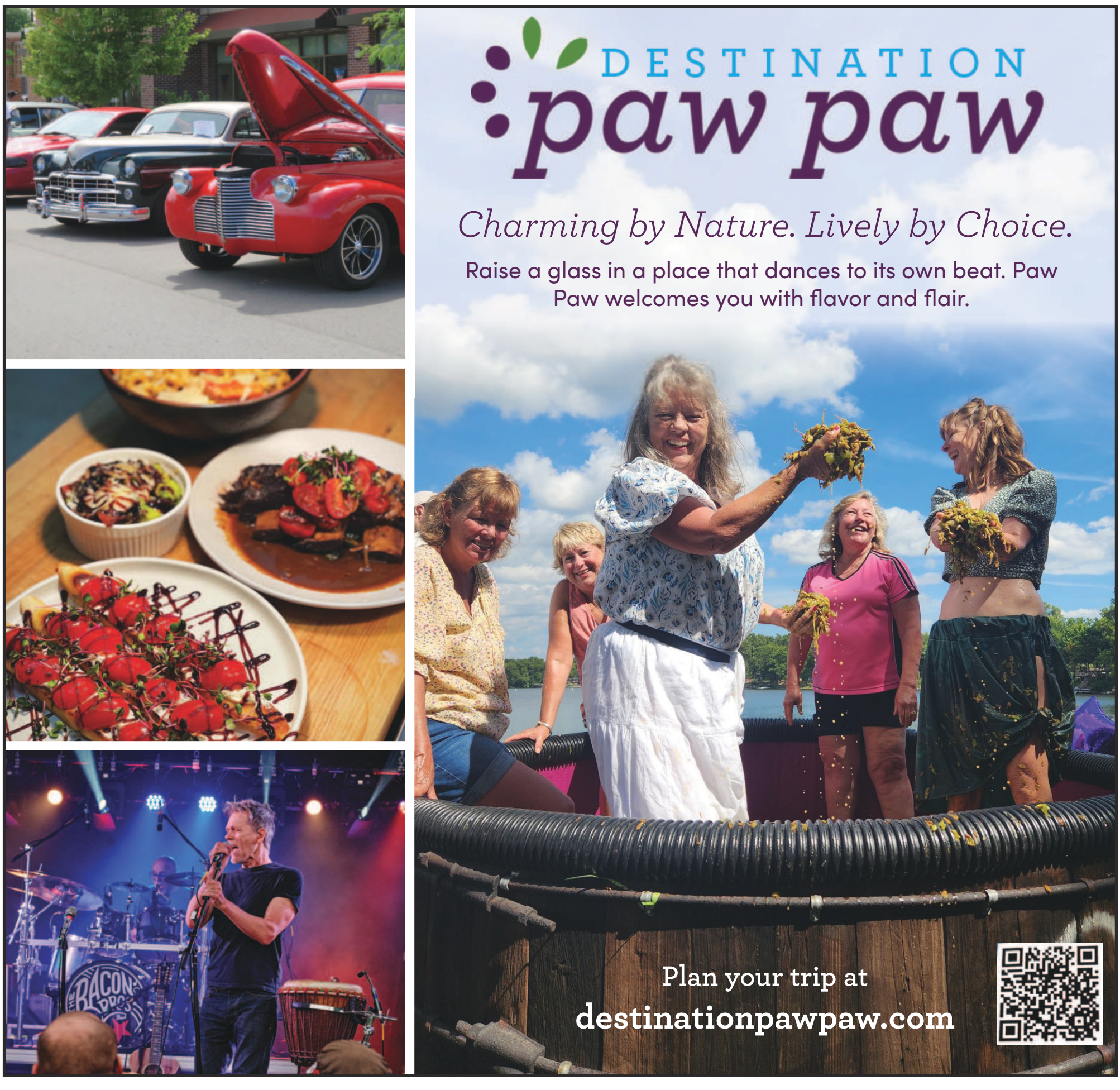
Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that Sheriff's deputies were dispatched at 11:54 p.m. to the area of County Road 390 near 37 1/2 St. in Bloomingdale Township for a reported one vehicle crash.

The caller advised that a vehicle had crashed into the woods near their house and rolled over, and that an infant was involved in the crash. Deputies arrived on scene and located the driver and the infant.

After investigating, the driver was found to be operating the vehicle under the influence of alcohol. She was subsequently arrested for operating while intoxicated and child endangerment.

All parties were evaluated by EMS and no serious injuries were discovered.

Deputies were assisted on scene by LIFE EMS, Michigan State Police, Mike's Towing and the Bloomingdale Fire Department.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South Haven Council passes vending license agreements

By James Windell

Although the South Haven City Council got sidetracked in its effort to pass amendments to extend concession and vending licenses for beach businesses in a previous city council meeting, they were able to approve those amendments on Monday, July 21 , 2025.

In introducing this item on the city council's agenda, City Manager Kate Hosier began by addressing the issue that held up approval of extensions of agreements with concessionaires in the July 7 meeting.

"We did determine that that (a surcharge to concessionaires) was not an option open to us," Hosier said. But she went on to say that new agreements have been negotiated with the SoHa Surf Shop for the kayak concessions.

"The kayak vendor will pay 15 percent of their sales along with a $1000.00 administrative fee," Hosier said. She also said that the beach concessionaires provide a substantial benefit to the city by stocking and cleaning the bathrooms at the beach twice a day

"This would cost us $45,000 to hire two people to do this," Hosier said.

Mayor Annie Brown clarified the issue of a surcharge with Hosier by asking if adding a tax on concession sales would be illegal. Hosier simply replied, "Yes."

Councilman Joe Reeser, who at the last meeting raised the question as to whether a surcharge could be added to concession sales, then floated an idea suggested to him by a constituent. "This resident came up with the idea of selling advertising on concession stands," Reeser said. Although this did not generate any discussion, Reeser added that his previous question about a surcharge was a way to open up discussion.

Councilwoman Mary Hosley agreed with Reeser stating, "We need discussion."

The council was asked by city staff to approve five amendments to existing vending license agreements. A motion was made to approve all five licensing agreements. The motion was passed unanimously without further discussion.

The licensing agreements extend the contracts with the vendors and concessionaires on both the North and South Beaches through 2030. Under the new agreement, the beach concessionaires would each pay an annual license fee that increases by 3% annually during the term of the agreement. North Beach concession would pay an initial $10,000 per year (increased from $5,000) and South Beach concession would pay an initial $18,000 (increased from $12,000). These license fees would continue to go to the beach fund.

National Night Out in South Haven hopes to improve relationships

By James Windell

National Night Out in South Haven offers a perfect opportunity to get to know everyone who keeps us safe.

On August 5, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Huron Street Pavilion in downtown South Haven, the local version of National Night Out will feature the South Haven Police Department (SHPD), South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES), Van Buren County Sheriff's Deputies, and other first responding agencies.

"It's a great chance to meet your neighbors, local law enforcement, firefighters, and community leaders in a relaxed, friendly environment," says South Haven City Manager Kate Hosier. "This event will help strengthen neighborhood bonds and foster a sense of unity and shared responsibility while building community connections."

National Night Out is a country-wide campaign aimed at heightening crime prevention awareness, strengthening police-community partnerships, and promoting public safety. Communities across the U.S., as well as those in West Michigan, will hold local events and activities. Besides events, such as the one scheduled in South Haven, according to Consumers Energy, Michiganders are asked to participate in a traditional display of outdoor and front porch lights and join block parties, and neighborhood events.

According to Adam DeBoer, South Haven's Interim Police Chief, "National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that promotes police-community partnerships and camaraderie." DeBoer says it is a night that the South Haven Police Department and SHAES look forward to in order to connect with people in the community in a positive way.

In addition to meeting police officers and first responders at the Huron Pavillion, participants at the National Night Out in South Haven will receive free hotdogs and popsicles, and be able to check out cool first responders' tools. "The SHPD and SHAES will have equipment and vehicles out by the pavilion so that people can experience them first hand," DeBoer says. Also, area agencies will be on hand to describe organizations in the area that help make our communities safer and more caring places to live, work, and play.

"This is a family-friendly event," adds Hosier, "that includes free food, music, games, giveaways, and activities for all ages. It will be a safe and welcoming event for families to enjoy together."

National Night Out in South Haven is completely free to attend, but, according to Hosier, your attendance is important. "Your presence helps demonstrate that your neighborhood values safety, solidarity, and civic engagement," she says.

Invasive crayfish found at Wolf Lake hatchery

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says invasive red swamp crayfish were found in an outdoor pond at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Van Buren County.

The DNR says the fish were found after stocking muskellunge in Barry County's Thornapple Lake and Lake Hudson in Lenawee County.

"Hatchery staff found the carcasses of two unusual crayfish in the collection basket of Wolf Lake Hatchery Pond 20 (where the fish were reared) after the pond was drained," the DNR said in a news release. "Crayfish traps were quickly deployed in Pond 20 and two adjacent ponds, resulting in the capture of one live, positively identified red swamp crayfish in Pond 20."

The DNR and the Michigan Invasive Species Program are working together to get a better understanding of the infestation at the Wolf Lake Hatchery. They have set 165 traps across the 11 earthen bottom ponds and using environmental DNA to determine the potential source of the

"Infestations are believed to result from the release or escape of aquarium pets, live bait or live crayfish brought to Michigan for crawfish boils," the DNR said.

Employees from the DNR Fisheries Division check red swamp crayfish traps at an infested pond in Novi, Michigan. (Courtesy DNR)

The DNR is putting together a plan to monitor both lakes out of an abundance of caution but doesn't suspect any crayfish were transferred.

"The muskie sent to Thornapple Lake and Lake Hudson from Wolf Lake Hatchery in July were 12 to 13 inches in length, and each was individually handled and tagged before release, significantly reducing the likelihood that red swamp crayfish were transferred with them to the receiving waters," the DNR said.

Red swamp crayfish are native to the southern U.S. and have been prohibited in Michigan since 2014. They are considered invasive because they "aggressively outcompete native crayfish for food and habitat." They also reproduce quickly and burrow along shorelines which can destabilize the banks.

Lawrence superintendent sees exciting changes and bright horizons

LAWRENCE - Big things are happening in the small community of Lawrence. Community. Lawrence Public Schools is ushering in a new era of growth, opportunity, and personalized support for students and families. With leadership changes, innovative student support systems, and expanded learning opportunities, the future looks bright and the 2025-26 school year promises to be an exciting year, according to the district's superintendent.

Ryan Williamson, who is beginning his second year at the district's helm, said, "At the heart of this transformation is the hiring of a new K-12 principal, bringing fresh vision and a student-centered approach to LPS. "Working closely with a newly hired behavior interventionist, dean of students, and school counselor, the district is strengthening its commitment to social-emotional learning, restorative practices, and individualized student support. Together, this team will ensure a safe, inclusive, and empowering environment for all learners."

"LPS is proud to offer personalized instruction with a 15:1 student-teacher ratio, ensuring each child receives the attention they deserve. This small class size fosters meaningful relationships between students and educators, maximizing engagement and academic success.

"Whether a student is accelerating through coursework, in need of additional academic support, or navigating social-emotional challenges, LPS is committed to meeting them where they are," said Williamson.

Understanding that today's families need options, LPS is investing in before and after school care and after school care programs designed to support working parents and provide extended enrichment opportunities for students, according to Williamson. "From homework help to extracurricular clubs, these programs will offer a safe, engaging space for students beyond the school day," said Williamson.

LPS is also expanding its alternative education and flexible learning programs, ideal for students who need non-traditional schedules or customized academic pathways. Whether balancing a job, family obligations, or unique learning styles, students will find options that fit their needs.

Williamson said the district's mission is clear: "To empower, inspire, and challenge students to champion a lifetime of education and excellence."

Williamson said, "We believe in nurturing the whole child - academically, socially, and emotionally - while preparing them for success beyond graduation. Our engaging curriculum and college and career readiness programs are designed to ensure students are ready for their next step, whether it's college, skilled trades, the military, or the workforce."

He concluded, "At Lawrence Public Schools, we're more than a district - we're a family. With our 'Small Schools, Big Opportunity' approach, students receive individualized attention in a supportive environment that champions their potential."

Town hall to discuss federal budget cuts

Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday August 5, 2025
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
American Legion
115 N Niles Street
Paw Paw

This is a meeting to learn more about the cuts the government is taking in Medicaid, Social Security and other programs that may hurt seniors and younger families in West Michigan.

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Show features unique quilts during Blueberry Festival

By James Windell

The Haven of Quilts quilt show during South Haven's Blueberry Festival will feature dozens of quilts created by local quilters as well as two very special antique quilts.

Quilters Haven, a local quilt club, presents the quilt show every August. This year, the show will take place on August 8th and 9th at Peace Lutheran Church in South Haven.

One of the special antique quilts that will be in the show is entitled "Clipper Ship." This quilt was displayed in the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago and then went on a world tour. "Clipper Ship" was made by an unknown Michigan quilter and is now owned by Quilters Haven member Sharon Jillson.

"More than 30 years ago, my husband's great aunt went to a garage sale in South Haven and saw this quilt for sale," says Jillson. "She paid five dollars for it and wasn't aware of it's historical significance."

"Clipper Ship" is made with applique and embroidery and features sea gull swirls which remind viewers of distances explorers had to travel to come to America. Since the theme of the 1933 World's Fair was a Century of Progress, the quilt depicts Conestoga wagons, clipper ships and airplanes – the latter highlighting the progress in the years 1833 to 1933.

A second antique that will be in this year's show is one owned by Quilter's Haven member Cheri Brenner. The quilt, a traditional Lone Star pattern, was made by Cheri's great-grandmother in 1885. When it

was shown to members of Quilters Haven recently, the quilters in the club noted that it was beautifully sewn and that it had a pristine quality that belied the fact that it was made 140 years ago.

Other quilts in the show have been made by Quilters Haven members. Each member can select up to five of their quilted items to display in the show.

Sharon Jillson, who inherited "Clipper Ship" from her mother-in-law, will have some of her own quilts in the show. "I'm going to display one I did for my grandson. It is a quilt of all the sports and activities he likes to do," she says.

Phyllis Bishop, who specializes in small quilts, will have five of her recent quilts in the show. One of the quilts which she expects to finish in time for the show is one that she designed for Lynn Farmer, the mayor of Bangor. "It's a tribute to the city of Bangor," Bishop says. "It will incorporate iconic features of Bangor."

Lucille Dalecki, who is a long-time member of Quilters Haven, says she will have five quilts in the show. "I love showing off what I do," Dalecki says. "I'm so proud of myself. One is a quilt that I made for my daughter. She likes ocean creatures, so I made her a king-size quilt with many sea creatures."

Another quilt Dalecki plans for the show is one that grew out of a challenge sponsored by Quilters Haven. In a challenge, everyone starts with yardage of the same fabric and then designs and develops their own unique quilt. Dalecki says, "This is a somewhat smaller quilt and for me it is definitely outside of my sphere of colors," she says. "It was a challenge, and I went with it, but I like the way it turned out." This year's challenge fabric is modern, colorful, and swirly.

Dalecki says that people who come to a quilt show are usually people who admire hand-made things. "Some will have knowledge about quilting even if they are not part of a quilt group," she says. "Some will come looking for specific types of styles and to admire the skills of quilters."

Quilters Haven member, Laura Vincent, thinks many people come to a quilt show to see what their community has to offer. "Visitors will find a great variety of quilts in terms of creativity and style," Vincent says.

Jillson adds that she thinks visitors to the show will discover that quilting is not a dying art. "It's not dying," she says, "quilting today is very much alive and well."

"A Haven of Quilts" will take place in the Fellowship Hall at Peace Lutheran Church, 06321 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, on Friday, August 8 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on and Saturday, August 9 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm,. There is ample parking in the church parking lot and there is no charge for admission, although a donation of $5.00 is suggested.

South Haven group inspires and encourages quilters

By James Windell

Quilters Haven is an apt name for the South Haven quilters club that has been meeting regularly for more than 10 years.

The group, comprised of more than 145 members, provides a safe haven for South Haven area quilters to come together, share their art, and talk about their latest projects.

On a recent Tuesday night in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Lutheran Church, more than 30 women met for their monthly "Show and Tell." During this gathering, every quilter had an opportunity to stand up in front of the group and display their latest quilt or quilted project.

Deloa Jones, a South Haven-based quilt instructor with a national reputation as a quilting guru, began by showing her latest stunning creations. Following her, most of the ladies held up their current project – garnering many "oohs and ahhs" when the quilts were first held up – explaining what approach or technique they used and fielding questions. Some of the other quilters took photos and there were generous rounds of applause.

"One of the things I like most about this quilting group is that when you're together, whether for a day of sewing, for a retreat or a Show and Tell, if you have a question, there is always somebody who will help you," says long-time Quilters Haven member Sharon Jillson. "It's just the friendship, the camaraderie, and the helpfulness of everybody that is just wonderful."

While some of the members, such as Phyllis Bishop, have been quilting for several decades, other members are relatively new to quilting. Laura Vincent is one who has recently discovered the art of quilting.

"When I started three years ago, I barely knew how to sew," says Vincent. "It was fun coming to the quilt group because they would laugh and joke with me about how slow I was going, but in the beginning I was trying to be so careful and I was so afraid of my machine, so I know what it is like to be the new person in this group. They just take you under their wings and they come and check on you. They give you advice."

Lucille Dalecki, who has been a member of Quilters Haven from the beginning, says that it is the sense of community that is so important to her. "We all share the same likes even though our levels of expertise may be different," Dalecki says. "There are so many interesting ideas that are discussed in the group, especially when we do our Show and Tell once a month."

Dalecki says that even though she has been quilting for many years, the quilt club has helped her in several ways. "For instance, " she says, "I used to be afraid of color because I never had any color training, but thanks to others in the group, I'm learning and I'm getting better."

When Quilters Haven began more than

a decade ago, the club met in the South Haven Memorial Library. Now, they meet in the Fellowship Hall at Peace Lutheran Church, 06321 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, for their fourth-Tuesday-of-the-month Show and Tell and their Saturday Sew on the first Saturday of the month.

Quilters Haven puts on a quilt show every year during the annual Blueberry Festival in South Haven. This year's show, "A Haven of Quilts," will feature dozens of quilts made by members as well as a few antique quilts.

To become a member of Quilters Haven, all you have to do is show up at one of their Tuesday or Saturday gatherings. For more information about Quilters Haven, contact Su Palmer at 231-740-7104. Their Facebook page can be found at Quilters Haven (South Haven).

Van Buren Youth Camp to mark 75th Anniversary

BLOOMINGDALE - The Van Buren Youth Camp will mark its 75th anniversary with a four-day celebration Aug. 14-17.

The Van Buren Youth Camp will mark its 75th anniversary with a four-day celebration Aug.14-17. The four-day celebration at the Camp is a free event to reconnect with old Camp friends and take part in classic Camp activities and campfires each night. There is a cost for meals and lodging. For more information, visit vbyc.org.

Camp Fest, a Family Day fundraiser will be held Aug. 16, where public and Camp alumni adults can sample local beers and wines, while the children can enjoy fun kid-friendly activities. A "Silent Auction," kids raffle, BBQ chicken picnic and musical entertainment are also planned for that afternoon.

Camp Fest tickets are $30 for adults ages 21 and over, $15 for teens ages 13 to 20, and free for those 12 and under. On event day, adult prices will increase to $40.

According to a Van Buren Youth Camp history, compiled by Tim Washburn, the son of founder Kermit Washburn, who was Van Buren County 4-H agent, in 1948 and 1949, the elder Washburn leased Camp Kilbourne as it was then known for two weeks as a 4-H camp. According to his son, Tim, "this turned out to be a very positive experience and the seed for a most unique idea."

At that time, the 27-acre camp was owned by the Aurora, IL. YMCA. Prior to 1949, the property was owned by The South Haven Country Club and The Bear Lake Fishing Club. The lodge was built by the Country Club in the early teens. The "Y" had operated the camp, then known as Camp Kilbourne for a couple of decades by transporting young people from the Chicago area to Bloomingdale, however, distance as well as the impact of World War II I proved eventually to be a detriment economically on the camping world.

The younger Washburn noted in the camp's history, "the timing was right for the birth of Van Buren Youth Camp."

Tim Washburn said in the history, "My dad, Kermit Washburn, Sr., was always founding a group or kick-starting a project throughout his whole life. He was so excited about this derelict camp as was my mother, that he pulled together several of his fellow community leaders and friends and sold them on the opportunity."

The group included Art Drije of Paw Paw, Jim Thar of Keeler, Paul Graham of Decatur, and Dean Richmond of Hartford, who all later came to be known as "The Founders," chipped in from their own pockets some earnest money and headed to Aurora to see if they could buy the old camp. The YMCA said "yes," and a selling price of $15,000 was agreed upon by the two parties.

Upon returning to Paw Paw, Tim Washburn said that "reality set in." The "founders" had to raise the rest of the money and quickly. Many hands were going to be needed so they organized information meetings composed of youth group leaders representing 4-H, Scouts, Farm Bureau, Home Extension clubs, school groups, church groups, service clubs, and others,

The idea was embraced "enthusiastically," recalled the younger Washburn. The leaders went back to their respective groups and communicated throughout the county and over the course of many months raised the funds to buy the camp. Fundraisers came by way of bake sales, scrap iron drives, hay sales, car washes, paper drives, public dinners, and raffles.

The younger Washburn noted that at the period in time, the nation's economy was not strong, and the Korean War was winding down.

The younger Washburn noted that a few more leaders joined the founders and incorporated the camp as a non-profit organization known as Van Buren County Youth Camp, Inc. The word "county" was struck from the name after a few years because of the misconception created linking the camp to the county government. It was decided that anyone who contributed to the camp, no matter the size of that contribution, would become a member of the corporation. In 2009 there are 980 members of the corporation, according to Washburn.

Tim Washburn said the number of people who have contributed to the success of camp through the years is vast and many have since passed on. "Many of these played special roles during their era and many can be seen on the memorial wall at camp or have their name memorialized on a camp building or structure."

The younger Washburn said to list all would be impossible, but he recalled a few that were noteworthy:

They included - Mr. and Mrs. Howard Goens, Mr. and Mrs. Horace (Hoss) Adams, Al Zimmer, Ed Twitchell, Mr. and Mrs. George Wear, Milt Gelock, Florence Patterson, Dan Getman, Leland Chase, George Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. Les Brown, Ed Soergal, Helen Remington, Joe Schiavone, Louise Thar, Leona Washburn, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Max Howe, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Patterson, and Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Brown.

Today, it is estimated that Van Buren Youth Camp has served more than 50,000 children and youth through the past 75 years, with a third coming from Chicago, a third, from Portage and Kalamazoo, and a third from Van Buren County and other areas, according to Camp Director Dottie Myers-Hill. She has served as camp director since 2013. She also served the post from 1990 to 1993. The camp is now seeing fourth generation family members return to the camp, located at 12370 45th St., Bloomingdale.

She noted the camp's enrollment exploded in 2021 following COVID-19. Last year, the camp's population was made up of people from 22 states and three countries. This year, the Camp consists of close to 30 staff members, including 11 international staff.

The Camp's Leadership Camp, which began in 1952, is the longest running leadership camp in the state of Michigan.

Camp counselors volunteer their time each week to lead the cabins.

Camp sessions are relatively inexpensive compared to other camps, according to Myers-Hill. She said the camp's Board of Directors recently raised the price to $500 a week. VBYC has a long history of providing Camperships to campers needing some financial assistance. The camp gave out 90 camperships last year to help those who wanted to attend camp.

Myers-Hill noted also that although the campers have changed over the years, the camp schedule reflects a similar schedule that was developed in 1965.

A new venture, Yonder Way, runs most of the weeks of the Camp's summer season. It was developed last year and gives 20 campers the opportunity to explore 50 acres that contain sports, STEM, theater, pioneer and travel camps.

Myers-Hill said, "Our goal is to send them home a little kinder and more aware of their impact on the people and spaces they interact with. If they exemplify just one our core values of leadership, inclusion, integrity, commitment, service, respect, responsibility, teamwork, or friendship, we have made the world a better place."

For more information, visit: vbyc.org

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Thursday, August 7 10 am-11 am BABIES & TODDLERS: Mother Goose on the Loose
Saturday, August 9 10 am-noon ADULTS: Internet Users Group Online fun & virtual vacations
Tickets for the 2025 Prospect Hill Cemetery Tour are now on sale! Visit pawpawlib.org to learn more.
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VIEWPOINT

Traverse City violence too close to home- action needed

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX ■ PUBLISHER ■

Here we go again. This time it is too close to home. Another alleged nut-job gone crazy injuring a dozen people, some critical at a Wal Mart, not with a gun, but with an ordinary pocketknife. If it weren't for Marine veteran Derrick Perry, who pulled out his legal concealed weapon and a couple other brave fellows, others could have been hurt by 42-year-old Bradford Gille.

This time, the incident occurred in Traverse City, a beloved Lake Michigan resort town more associated with cherry festivals and tranquil bay views than gunfire and chaos. Yet in late July, it joined a long, tragic list of American communities torn by a mass violence incident.

While details of the Traverse City shooting are still emerging, what's clear is that the emotional scars will linger far longer than the headlines. Residents are reeling, families are grieving, and yet again, a community is left asking: How did this happen here?

The uncomfortable truth is that there are fewer places in the U.S. where it doesn't happen. In fact one of the last place places I would ever suspect an incident like this is Traverse City.

Mass shootings and other forms of public violence are now so frequent that they barely disrupt the national rhythm of news cycles. They happen in schools, grocery stores, malls, parades, and churches. The settings vary, but the aftermath is always the same: stunned faces, candles and flowers, politicians offering condolences — and a paralyzing lack of action.

We've become a nation where violence in public spaces is as American as fireworks on the Fourth of July. Even our president has been the victim of two assassination attempts. And that should chill us to the bone.

What happened in Traverse City isn't an isolated incident. It's part of a broader, troubling trend of societal breakdown. Mental health crises, ideological extremism, and a pervasive sense of alienation are converging into a volatile and deadly mix. Many of the perpetrators of these incidents are young men, often with prior red flags, acting out in anger, desperation, or delusion.

So, what can be done?

The answer is not simple, but it is urgent. We need a multi-pronged approach: sensible gun reform that respects rights while keeping weapons out of dangerous hands (the keyword is sensible, I am not advocating taking guns out of the hands of responsible citizens); more robust mental health infrastructure; renewed community investment; and a media and social environment that does not glorify violence or deepen division.

At the heart of it all, though, we need to confront an uncomfortable cultural truth: America has a problem with violence. It's embedded in our mythology, our politics, and too often in our entertainment. Until we, as a nation, begin to value peace and human life above ideology and profit, Traverse City will not be the last headline of its kind.

The people of Northern Michigan are strong, and they will heal. But they should not have to. Not like this. Not again.

It's time we stopped accepting mass violence as inevitable and start treating it like the national emergency it truly is.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Two party, actually one-party system destroying Democracy

Dear Editor:

As an American I find Mr. Young's colorful opinion hypocritical and indicative of his own complaints. Mr. Young highlights how uninformed the democrat base is while he bashes them with juvenility and his own shown ignorance.

We the People have been lied to and abused by both sides for at least many decades now. Divide to conquer. Seperate to destroy. I wonder if Mr. Young has ever connected the pattern where if the people benefit, it is ALWAYS the other sides fault the bill does not pass, but when they, the ruling class are able to benefit predominantly, the bill always passes with bipartisan cooperation in record speed?

We the People would not be in the boat we are in if not for both sides working together to destroy this republic. The propaganda of care and genuineness spews out of the politicians on both sides of the isles mouth. The plutocratic class are not representatives they are bought-and-paid-for politicians. I wonder if Mr. Young knows about the Utah Data Center and 5G A.I. analytics? If he knows exactly what Cambridge Analytica was and did? Does he know about 5G persistent surveillance and total population observation? Both sides brought this treasonous apparatus to life, not just the Dems, not just the republicans - BOTH worked to pass the bills that make leagle the analysis and secret observation of him, his neighbors and every single American. The Dollar has been printed into worthlessness by both sides, not just one party. The Water, Air and Sea have been polluted by laws passed by both sides, our education system has been destroyed by both sides, not one party over the other. Please Wake up Mr. Young, red or blue neither side cares about you.

The problem is not left or right, the problem is the plutocratic "two party system", that is actually a one party system. Without question their propaganda is potent and fine tuned, but it is still propaganda.

For the record, I am not a democrat and I am not a republican, I love my country too much to follow parties who are both active in its destruction.

I find it sad how we the people can consume lie after lie and still believe these plutocrats love and care for us.

How many times would it take for your child or sibling to lie to your face, before you stop believing or trusting their words?

Anthony Celley

Reader enjoyed Gent article

Dear Editor:

That was a wonderful article about Pete Gent and Richie Jordon. I lived in Bangor and was 9 year old when they won the Class C State Basketball championship.

I still remember the parade and the firetruck loaded with all the team players.

Also remember all the headlines about Richie Jordon and his great shooting and leaping abilities.

Best regards,
Paul D Rigozzi

Cedar Street Campus – reinventing success one student at a time

PAW PAW - Paw Paw Public Schools' Cedar Street Campus has faithfully stood as an educational beacon to the Paw Paw community for 72 years. First, it opened its doors as Cedar Street Elementary School in 1953, and over the years, it has served the community in many ways – acting as a home for adult education, online education, early childhood education, before-and after-school care, alternative education, and more. While students of all ages, backgrounds and educational levels have walked its hallowed halls, the mission remains the same: to develop, support and inspire every student for lifelong success.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the Cedar Street Campus is once again reinventing itself. This time, the Cedar Street team is hyper focused on becoming the obvious choice for alternative, adult, and online education in Van Buren County. With new leadership, updated classrooms and bold ideas, the educational programs at Cedar Street are innovative, flexible, and strategically designed to meet the needs of today's students. While other districts may offer online learning labs, the Cedar Street Campus - located in the heart of Paw Paw - offers highly qualified, certified teachers, seated in the classroom, working alongside students, with programs tailored to meet their individual educational goals.

"Leading the charge in a new, exciting role at Cedar Street is Sarah Chandler, Lead Teacher for Alternative and Adult Education," said PPPS Superintendent Jeremy Davison. "Chandler brings four years' experience as an English teacher in the Alternative Education Program and a passion for helping students who benefit from a more flexible and supportive environment. Sarah will be working closely with Cedar Street teachers, staff and Paw Paw Public Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction to serve the needs of Cedar Street students and the community."

Students who are experiencing challenges in conventional academic settings - and who see themselves thriving with one-on-one attention from caring, qualified teachers and smaller class sizes - are encouraged to learn more about Cedar Street by visiting the website www.ppps.org, or by calling (269) 415-5700.

Antwerp Township Senior Picnic brings community together, more than 200 attend

ANTWERP TWP. - Sunshine, good food, and great company were all on the menu Tuesday, July 23, as Antwerp Township Senior Services hosted its annual Senior Picnic at the Antwerp Activity Center.

More than 200 local seniors attended the celebration, which featured a home-style meal of ribs, brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, cornbread, apple and cherry pie. The gathering provided an opportunity for laughter, connection, and appreciation for the township's senior community.

"This is one of the highlights of the year for our seniors," said Karol Chopp, Antwerp Township Senior Services Administrator. "It's a chance to relax, reconnect with friends."

Adding to the day's excitement were door prizes, generously donated by several local businesses and organizations. Donors included:

Dragonfly Gardens, Happy Days Café, Moo Moo's Ice Cream Joint, Clean by Design, Shultz Fruit Farm, Lawton Ridge Winery, Texas Corners Brewing Co., G.G Sweets, Casa Tequila, Saunders Greenhouse, and the Mattawan Lions Club.

The atmosphere was made even more festive with live musical entertainment by Wes Garman, whose performance was enjoyed by all. A heartfelt thank you also goes out to the dedicated volunteers who helped serve the meal and made the event run smoothly.

The annual picnic reflects Antwerp Township's ongoing commitment to its senior residents, offering not only services, but meaningful opportunities to gather and enjoy life together.

For more information on upcoming events and services, visit:AntwerpTownshipMI.gov.

OBITUARIES

Margret "Peg" Ann Brabb

Margaret "Peg" Ann Brabb, 93, of Lawton, passed away peacefully on July 22, 2025. She was born on Dec. 26, 1931, the daughter of Carlton and Violet (Brinker) Brabb.

Margret attended University of Michigan School of Nursing for one year but changed direction and transferred to Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, for a degree in teaching. She taught physical education for 32 years at Kalamazoo Central High School. She started an upholstery business after retiring from teaching.

She loved golf, and taught swimming for the Red Cross for 10 years. Peg loved her many pets and had more friends than one could count. Everyone loved Peg and she loved them all right back. Perhaps, her greatest love was singing. She sang for years in her church choir and in the Kalamazoo Chorale. It is certain that she is now singing in God's choir.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Aug. 13, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 63855 M-40 Highway, Lawton.

In lieu of flowers, Peg asked for charitable donations to be made to St. Paul's United Methodist Church in her name.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

Celebration of Life

Toni-Marie Pella

Toni-Marie Pella (Young-Moore) passed away on July 3, 2025. A South Haven Mi grad of 1988. She leaves behind three children (Trevor, Rachel, Kyle) and was mimi to 10 grandchildren. She also leaves her mother (Thyra Chaddock) and two brothers (Garrett Pella and Nathan Chaddock).

Known for her singing and her art. She was a Master Gardener, studying mycology, for artwork at local businesses, being an avid fisherman and being a great mimi.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday August 3 from 2-5 at Lakeside Entertainment (M140 and Bluestar). Come share light refreshments, pictures and memories.

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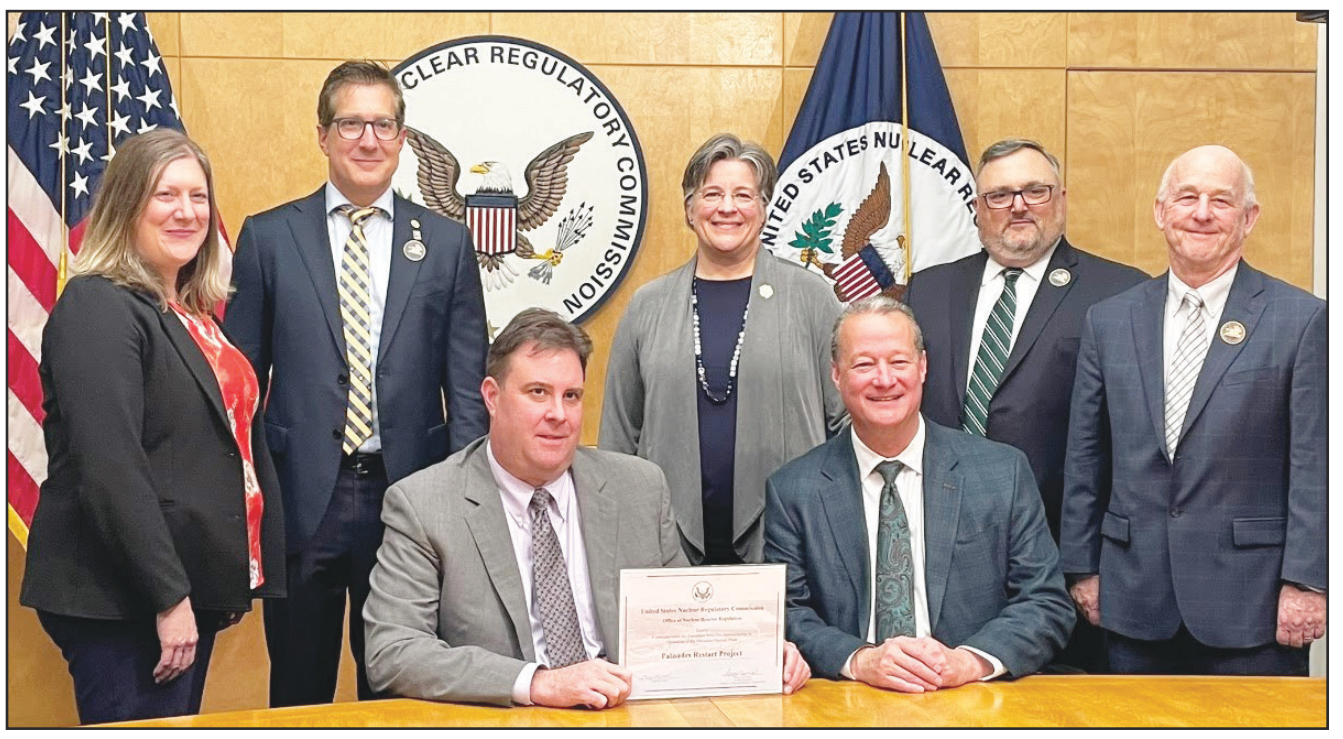
NRC reauthorizes Palisades operating license in historic first for U.S. nuclear industry



Jamie Pelton, Deputy Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, NRC; Mike King, Acting Executive Director for Operations, NRC; Greg Bowman, Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC; NRC Commissioner Annie Caputo; Kelly Trice, President, Holtec International; Jason Kozal, Director, Division of Operating Reactor Safety, NRC Region III; and Philip McKenna, Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Oversight, NRC at July 24 historic event at NRC Headquarters.

In a major milestone for the United States nuclear industry, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has formally approved Holtec's request to transition the Palisades Nuclear Plant from decommissioning status back to an operating license.

The NRC's action reflects its thorough review of Palisades' licensing basis under the agency's existing regulatory framework, marking the first time a previously shutdown U.S. nuclear plant has received approval to return to operations.

"This is a proud and historic moment for our team, for Michigan, and for the United States," said Holtec International President Kelly Trice. "The NRC's approval to transition Palisades back to an operating license represents an unprecedented milestone in U.S. nuclear energy. Our mission remains clear: to restart Palisades safely, securely, reliably, and in support of America's energy future – while supporting local jobs and economic growth for decades to come."

With this approval, Palisades is authorized to receive new fuel and formally transition licensed reactor operators to on-shift status. The plant continues to progress towards a timely restart, with extensive readiness work underway - including rigorous testing, inspections, and maintenance – to ensure a safe and reliable return to service under ongoing independent federal oversight.

Once returned to service, Palisades will generate more than 800 megawatts of safe, reliable, and carbon-free baseload power – enough to power more than 800,000 households. The restart of Palisades will enhance grid reliability and help meet growing energy demand in Michigan and beyond.

Commenting on this historic milestone, Holtec Chief Nuclear Officer Rich Burroni, Holtec Vice President of Licensing, Regulatory Affairs, and PSA Jean Fleming, and Palisades Site Vice President Mike Mlynarek said, "This milestone is a testament to the expertise and determination of Holtec's licensing team, whose work made this historic approval possible. It also reflects the dedication of the Palisades team working every day to safely return the plant to service, along with the strong support we've received from our corporate organization and peers across the nuclear industry."

The project is led by approximately 600 full-time nuclear professionals at Palisades and supported by approximately 1,000 skilled trades workers, vendors, and suppliers. Backed by strong bipartisan support from federal, state, and local partners, underpinned by long-term power purchase agreements with key business partners, the restart effort is also a testament to the commitment of the surrounding community – whose belief in Palisades helped make this milestone possible.

As the first soon-to-be successful restart of a U.S. nuclear plant in decommissioning, the Palisades project will mark a turning point – soon to be followed by the deployment of small modular reactors and other advanced nuclear technologies in Michigan and across the country. The Palisades restart affirms the critical role nuclear power plays in meeting national energy needs, supporting U.S. energy independence, and powering a new era of safe, reliable electricity.

Greater Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes new business

The Greater Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed its newest member, Lawrence Community Care, with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on Saturday, July 26, 2025. The event was a celebration of both community and innovation as Lawrence Community Care officially opened its doors to serve the residents of Lawrence and surrounding areas. Chamber representatives, local officials, business leaders, and community members gathered to commemorate the occasion and show their support for the new business.

"We are thrilled to welcome Lawrence Community Care into the Chamber family," said a Chamber spokesperson. "Their commitment to providing quality care and support to the community aligns perfectly with our mission to foster growth and strengthen local connections."

Lawrence Community Care aims to deliver compassionate, community-based services designed to enhance quality of life and promote well-being for individuals and families in the region.

With love and remembrance, we invite you to join us for the memorial service to honor the life of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother Darlene E. Begeman.

September 6, 2025
ReCast Church, 25120 Front Ave., Mattawan, MI 49071
Fellowship and light refreshments 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Memorial Service 12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Graveside Service 1:30 p.m.
Almena Cemetery 30546-32000 Almena Drive (County Road 375)

Actor/Historian Randy Otto returns to South Haven in new show

WINSTON CHURCHILL: The Blitz

The South Haven Theatre Series presents WINSTON CHURCHILL: The Blitz at 7:30pm on Saturday, August 16 in Listiak Auditorium, 600 Elkenburg St. Randy Otto transports the audience to a London rooftop, where Churchill heroically leads his country to Victory in the face of the terrifying German bombing of London.

The scene is Autumn 1940, London. Never have so many been so inspired by one man heroically leading the British people to Victory. The audience lives through one night of The Blitz, the German bombing of London. But never fear. Winston is here!

WINSTON CHURCHILL: The Blitz stars Randy Otto, who as Churchill's great grandson Jonathan Sandys exclaimed "I have heard many people attempt to play the role of my great-grandfather, but without hesitation, Randy Otto takes the role to a whole new level. Randy does not attempt to be Winston Churchill; Randy IS Winston Churchill."

The show includes a multimedia of period film, photos, sound & lighting effects, and pigeons! Winston leads the audience in a rousing British Music Hall Sing-Along … and then 'Ask Winston' an interactive Q&A with Winston.

This performance has been supported by a grant from the South Haven Area Community Foundation.

Randy Otto in WINSTON CHURCHILL: The Blitz will appear at 7:30pm on Saturday, August 16 in Listiak Auditorium, 600 Elkenburg St., South Haven. Tickets are $15 for adults and free for children and students. Avoid the line for tickets at the door by purchasing them online at www.southhaventheatreseries.org .

BIG BEAR CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Friday, August 8 @ 9:30 A.M.
Located: 5580 M-140, Eau Claire, MI

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Online access to historic and current land maps at HPL

Jerry Happel, Director of the Digital Information Department for Van Buren County, will be the guest speaker at the Hartford Public Library on Saturday, August 16th at 11am. This special presentation is being sponsored by the Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society in collaboration with the Hartford Public Library.

Mr. Happel's department specializes in the preservation, digitization and use of innovative technologies that offer the public better access to historical and current property information. The rapidly changing advancements, including Artificial Intelligence, implemented by this department are especially helpful to educators, historians, genealogists and others who have interest in the rich tapestry of our county's past.

One of the most recent undertakings has been the digitization of the historic plat books that serve as essential tools for understanding the evolution of land use, ownership, and geographical features over time. They provide an in-depth look into our ancestors' lives, revealing the framework of communities and the development patterns that have shaped the county we know today.

This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome and no reservation is needed.

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SPORTS

Lawton soccer standout reflects on solid season

Lilleonah Mandujano had a very intriguing season for Lawton's girls soccer team in the spring.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Lilleonah Mandujano had a very intriguing season for Lawton's girls soccer team in the spring.

"The team had a solid season with a record of 8-6-1," Mandujano said. "We grew a lot together and stayed competitive throughout the season, especially in tough games and situations.

"I feel like I had a good season overall. I gave my best each game, helping create scoring opportunities and applying pressure up top. At the end of the season I received All-District Team and All Conference, Honorable Mention. I also received MVP along with Senior, Tiara Ellis."

Mandujano got better as a player.

"I definitely improved in my positioning and on/off-the-ball movement. I've also gotten better at making smarter plays in the final third," Mandujano said. "I played forward, so my role was to help create scoring chances, pressure the defense, and finish opportunities when they came.

"My role was pretty similar to last year, but I had to take on more responsibility as a returning player. And grow in knowledge of the game and awareness. I try to stay focused on reading the game and being in the right spot at the right time. I focused on improving my finishing and staying composed when in front of the goal. I also worked on my first touch and being quicker on transitions."

There were many memorable moments.

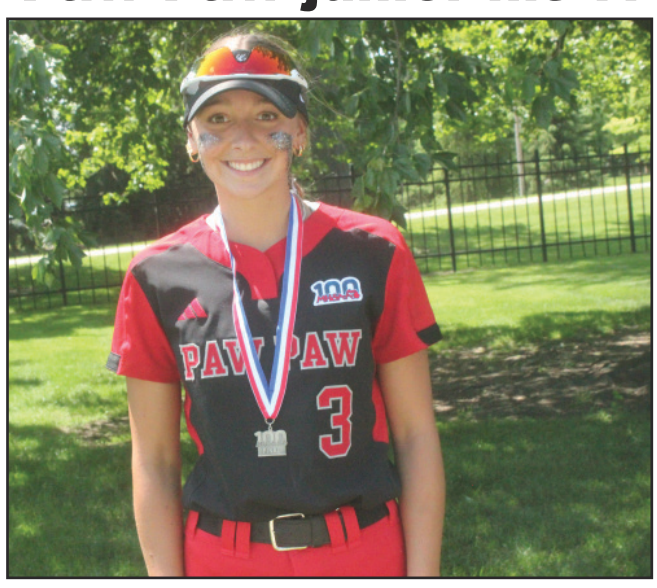
"The most memorable moment was during districts against Marcellus. It was a rainy game, which made it more intense. We won the game 9-0," Mandujano said. "We had several strong wins and came together as a team more than ever before. We kept a positive mindset and worked through challenges, which helped us finish the season strong.

"I think I met my expectations and am proud of the progress I made. There's always room to grow, but I'm happy with how I played this season. I'd say we met our expectations. We worked hard and ended with a record that shows our effort."

Soccer is her only sport.

"I love the pace of the game, the teamwork involved, and the way every match feels different. It's always a challenge," she said. "Next up is club soccer with Midwest United SCOR. I'm excited to keep training and competing during the offseason. I'm thankful for my coaches, teammates, and the support from everyone this season. I'm looking forward to what's next."

Paw Paw junior hit 17 home runs



Cami VanderMeeden was a third baseman for Paw Paw

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Cami VanderMeeden's junior season was a memorable one for a Paw Paw softball team which finished 37-4 and was state runners-up in Division 3.

The Red Wolves lost 3-0 to Richmond in the state title game.

"It sucks losing but I'm happy for the other team," VanderMeeden, said after the game. "Next year, we're going to come back even stronger because we have the same team and no seniors."

VanderMeeden recalled the strategy in hoping to defeat Richmond.

"We learned we had to hit the ball hard, play good defense and play out best," VanderMeeden said.

It was a season which surpassed all expectations.

"We didn't think we were going to make it this far in April," she said. "Once the season was going on…the first couple of games, I was thinking…dang, we can do something here."

VanderMeeden has played third base just about all her life. Her coach suggested she play there.

"I had a couple of errors, but not many," she said. "I hit the ball pretty good. I hit 17 home runs and I would say that's pretty amazing. I did not think I would."

VanderMeeden hit eight home runs last season. The key this year she said, was "swinging hard at the plate."

VanderMeeden plays volleyball at the school and a lot of travel softball

Strebeck enjoyed magical softball career for South Haven

Grace Strebeck had a standout softball career for South Haven.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — It was a magical season for South Haven's softball team and senior Grace Strebeck.

South Haven won the softball district championship with a dramatic walkoff home run late in the season..

South Haven defeated Stevensville Lakeshore 7-5 to advance to the regional round.

Trailing most of the game, South Haven sliced the Lakeshore lead to 5-3 with a pair of runs in the sixth inning. Down to their last out in the seventh and with two runners on-base, Strebeck cleared the center field fence to set off the celebration for South Haven's first district championship since 2018.'

"We've had a really successful season," Strebeck said. "I think with it being such a new and young team, we played like have been playing together for years and it was so fun. Highlights include beating Coloma because it was such an upbeat game and we had so much energy that game, winning the title of undefeated champs, and of course, winning the title of district champs.

"My season went pretty good. I started off strong both defensively and offensively and may have had a slight slump in the middle but came back strong and ended the season with great memories. My highlights included hitting my first home run of the season, overall my defense throughout the season, and finally hitting the walk off homer to win districts against Lakeshore."

Strebeck liked her improvement.

"I would say I improved a lot. I think the bigger thing I improved on was my communication and confidence which overall improved my playing, which I have struggled with my entire high school career, but I'm proud that I finally achieved those goals."

Strebeck has played three years on varsity.

"I started playing outfield and second base meh sophomore year and slowly moved to my favorite and strongest position, which is shortstop," she said. "I would say my strengths was my willingness to get dirty and be aggressive and really give it my all to get the ball. When I find my groove I hit the ball really well. Any hit that went into gaps or ropes were pretty memorable and of course my home runs throughout the years.

"I wiill miss so many things (about SH sports and softball) but I will say (especially) the family that I have gained and the amazing memories and fun I've had with these girls. I will also miss the game and miss the bus rides to and from on the short bus."

Strebeck also played volleyball except her senior season.

"Softball of course was my favorite because ever since I started playing it, I knew I would play it for as long as I could. The love I have for the sport is incredible and I love every aspect of it," Strebeck said.

Paw Paw first baseman looking forward to next year

Carlie Streich (8) will be returning to the Paw Paw softball team next season.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Carlie Streich played a key role for Paw Paw's softball team this season.

The Red Wolves had a state runners-up season in softball but was disappointed to lose 3-0 to Richmond in the state championships game.

"It was a tough loss but we all came together and played as one," Streich, a Paw Paw sophomore, said.

The Red Wolves finished at 37-4.

"At first we thought we weren't going to mesh that well because there's a lot of different personalities on the team," Streich said. "But as the season progressed, we came together. We had a sisterhood kind of bond. We were like sisters."

Streich recalls a key turning point.

"I think coming toward the end of the season and we started beating good teams we realized we had good potential and could make it really far," Streich said.

It was Streich's second season at first base. She played there last year.

"I feel I'm pretty quick with it and that helps a lot," she said.

As for hitting, "I was actually in a slump this year," Streich said. "Coming into the finals, I started hitting a lot more than I did."

In the regionals she had three doubles against Edwardsburg.

"I was just in a grove," Streich said.

She returns next year on a team that did not have any seniors this year.

Streich also plays high school basketball. During the summer she has been playing travel softball.

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South Haven athlete continues her impressive career

South Haven's Gianna Bell (left) and Gianna Fazio were productive point producers.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Gianna Fazio will be a junior for South Haven for the 2025-26 and is coming off a terrific 2024-25 season in track and field, cross country and varsity basketball.

The track season was an impressive one.

Fazio was a sprinter and talented part of the relay teams.

"Our team is very strong and is capable of so much. We've performed well, if we put more focus and effort we could do such powerful things on the track," Fazio said. "I have performed well, definitely not my best. the same goes for me when I say I need to focus more and put more effort. I know what I'm capable of and it's my job to reach that point.

"I feel as if I have improved with the mental aspect of the sport, i just need to keep working with Coach Smiley to reach the point of the best performance i can give. My role on the team was to encourage others that they are capable of anything they put their mind too. And to keep pushing everybody so they feel like they have a support system. that is very important to me. If anything the role became bigger because I wasn't the little freshman on the team."

As for her fundamental strengths, "I feel like my strengths are wanting to win and being determined to reach my best ability, as well as keeping a good mental space while performing. The biggest thing that i worked on was my mental state when i am on the track, the hardest part of the sport is keeping your head in the game. As well as making sure you'
re taking care of yourself and listening to your body. I always remembered to listen to coach Smiley and "eat lean and clean"

She had several memorable moments.

"My memorable moments are when my relay teams end up placing and meddling when we were not expected too or when coaches make comments on our speed when we come to the big meets as the 'underdogs,'" Fazio said. "This team we have is amazing, there are way too many moments to add on here. I don't know what I would do if I didn't have the friendships and memories I have from our track and field team. My favorite highlights are when we have our team prayers before and after meets, cheering distance people on, and just going to practice and having the best time while working out. The biggest thing for me was how close everyone was on the track team."

Fazio added: "Going through many physical/mental challenges. I have not reached my goal on how I want to perform, but I like to push myself and make sure if I do reach a goal, I make a new one the same day and keep pushing myself to get better. The team this year went through many different challenges and successes, we definitely need to apply more effort and seriousness to the sport, because we could do so much good if we performed to the best of our ability."

She also runs cross country, plays varsity basketball, but after an injury her freshman year she blew her foot out and "I will not be returning to basketball after that," Fazio said. "My favorite sport is most definitely track and field. I don't know where I would be in life without it. I have made so many memories I will never forget and have gotten so many friendships out of this team. Most importantly because of coach Smiley, he inspires me to push myself and be the best version of myself everyday at school and at practice/meets.

"He takes so much time and puts too much effort into organizing our practices and early morning workouts to help us reach the max level of performance and I will forever be grateful for him because he has impacted my life in so many great ways. He says I'm a lot to handle, but I know I'm his favorite."

As for the summer, "I will continue to work out and go on runs, but I also work two jobs and that consumes most of my time. The next sport after track will be the beginning of the new school year and I will be running cross country."

Lawrence girls perform at state meet

By John Raffel

Carolina Mancera was among the Lawrence track girls who performed at the Division 4 state finals this season at Hudsonville..

Mancera, a junior, took several first places in the discus during the season including at the Southwest 10 Centerville Meet with a throw of 105-10.

She also was first at the River Valley Mustang Invitational with a throw of 100-7. The big day came in the Southwest 10 Centreville meet with a personal record toss of 105-10. He then took first at the SW 10 Cassopolis meet with a throw of 104-6. Next was the Gobles Invitational and she was third in 100-3.

At the Southwest Michigan Throwers meet Mancera was third at 102-7. She threw 94-7 for second at the regional meet in New Buffalo to qualify for the state finals.

Hadley Camp had a huge season in the high jump, setting a PR of 14-10.75 for first place in the SW Conference meet and 14-9 for second place in the regional meet at New Buffalo.

Camp was 19th at the state finals.

She also threw the shot put and ran the relays.

Lawrence high jumper has strong year

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Lawrence senior Dillon Simpson ended his Lawrence track and field career in impressive fashion.

Simpson came into the season as a high jumper, sprinter and discus thrower, hurdler and sprinter, and especially had success in the high jump. He started out with a fourth place in the 52nd Watervliet Relays at 5 feet, 6 inches and then got his personal record of 6-0 for first place at the Southwest 10 Bangor meet. He was second at 5-9 in the River Valley Mustang Invitational.

At the Southwest 10 Centreville meet, he was at 5-8 for first place. He was 5-10 for third place at the Southwest 10 Cassopolis meet. Simpson cleared 5-11 in the Gobles Invitational for third place and was second in the regional meet at New Buffalo at 6 feet.

This put him in the state finals at Hudsonville and he was 10th at 5-10.

The discus was also a good event for Simpson. He had a personal record of 118-4 in the Southwest 10 Cassopolis meet for first place. He had a throw of 113-1 at the 52nd Watervliet Relay for fifth place and a throw of 98-9 for fifth place at the Southwest Bangor meet. He was sixth at the Gobles Invitational at 110-10.

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Vale got the job done for Mattawan lacrosse

Vince Vale will be returning next season for Mattawan lacrosse.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Vince Vale put together a performance for Mattawan's lacrosse team this season, which he and his team is expected to savor for a long time. The dream season for Mattawan's boys lacrosse team came to an end for coach Erik Frank's Wildcats in a 20-11 loss to Detroit Country Day on June 3. Mattawan's final season record was 18-2.

Vale led Mattawan in scoring in the game. Brody Hergott led the team in scoring all season. Mattawan graduates nine seniors. But Vale was a junior and returns next year. He's been in varsity lacrosse three seasons. He's a midfielder he said in that role, he's there to play both defensively and offensively. "The kind of season I had was my ability to score on the run and I free my hand to get the open shot and find the back of the cage," Vale said. He scored around 50 goals.

"My final game vs. Country Day, I was determined to beat them. In the end we didn't but I played a very good game," Vale said. "I think I was a very good scorer. I had the first three goals of the game (vs. Country Day). It's not all about scoring. I played very good defense in moments."

Team togetherness was a key factor in the game, Vale said. "We've been playing together our entire lives," Vale said. "I've known these boys as long as I can remember. We've been playing together a long time. "We are going to be losing a lot of guys. It will be tough challenge. I think we can get it done."

Lacrosse is his only sport. "I grew up in a lacrosse family and it's stuck with me. I picked up my first lacrosse stick when I was two years old," Vale said.

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING
LAKE CORA AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF PAW PAW TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Paw Paw Township Board, as authorized by PA 188 of 1954, as amended, proposes to undertake an aquatic plant control project (with associated activities) on Lake Cora in Paw Paw Township, as more particularly described below and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the costs thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited. The Special Assessment District shall be known as the LAKE CORA AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 2022-1.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the land and premises in the special assessment district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be made and within which the costs thereof are to be specially assessed are more particularly described as parcels abutting Lake Cora or having frontage on Lake Cora, including the following parcel numbers:

80-14-017-047-10	80-14-740-012-00	80-14-110-023-00	80-14-110-001-50	80-14-018-066-21	80-14-740-026-00	80-14-440-028-01	80-14-110-014-01
80-14-019-023-03	80-14-018-015-00	80-14-740-016-01	80-14-110-030-00	80-14-110-004-50	80-14-018-066-29	80-14-740-030-00	80-14-740-002-00
80-14-110-018-00	80-14-019-028-00	80-14-018-024-00	80-14-740-021-00	80-14-440-007-00	80-14-110-008-00	80-14-018-066-60	80-14-740-037-00
80-14-740-008-00	80-14-110-020-00	80-14-019-032-00	80-14-018-032-50	80-14-740-024-10	80-14-440-014-00	80-14-110-011-50	80-14-018-070-00
80-14-018-010-00	80-14-740-013-00	80-14-110-027-00	80-14-110-002-01	80-14-018-066-25	80-14-740-027-00	80-14-740-001-00	80-14-110-015-00
80-14-019-025-05	80-14-018-015-30	80-14-740-018-01	80-14-440-001-01	80-14-110-005-00	80-14-018-066-30	80-14-740-032-00	80-14-740-005-00
80-14-110-018-50	80-14-019-029-00	80-14-018-029-00	80-14-740-022-00	80-14-440-009-00	80-14-110-009-00	80-14-018-067-10	80-14-740-038-00
80-14-740-010-00	80-14-110-020-50	80-14-019-033-00	80-14-018-063-02	80-14-740-024-30	80-14-440-015-00	80-14-110-012-00	80-14-018-072-00
80-14-018-013-01	80-14-740-014-00	80-14-110-028-00	80-14-110-003-00	80-14-018-066-27	80-14-740-028-00	80-14-740-001-10	80-14-110-016-00
80-14-019-026-00	80-14-018-015-40	80-14-740-019-00	80-14-440-004-00	80-14-110-006-00	80-14-018-066-40	80-14-740-033-00	80-14-740-003-00
80-14-110-019-00	80-14-019-030-00	80-14-018-031-00	80-14-740-023-00	80-14-440-012-00	80-14-110-010-00	80-14-018-068-00	80-14-019-020-00
80-14-740-011-60	80-14-110-022-00	80-14-110-001-25	80-14-018-066-18	80-14-740-025-00	80-14-440-018-00	80-14-110-013-00	80-14-110-017-00
80-14-018-014-00	80-14-740-014-10	80-14-110-029-00	80-14-110-004-00	80-14-018-066-28	80-14-740-029-00	80-14-740-001-50	80-14-740-007-00
80-14-019-027-00	80-14-018-019-00	80-14-740-020-00	80-14-440-005-00	80-14-110-007-00	80-14-018-066-50	80-14-740-035-00	
80-14-110-019-50	80-14-019-031-00	80-14-018-032-40	80-14-740-024-01	80-14-440-013-00	80-14-110-011-00	80-14-018-069-00	

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received plans showing the proposed aquatic plant control project, associated activities, any proposed improvements and locations thereof, together with an estimate of the cost of the project in the amount of $60,000 (including administrative costs), and has placed the same on file with the Township clerk; has passed a resolution tentatively declaring its intention to make the improvement and to create the special assessment district; and has tentatively found the petitions for the improvement in compliance with the statutory requirements. The plans, cost estimates and special assessment district may be examined at the Clerk's office from the date of this Notice to the date of the public hearing and may further be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the plans, district, cost estimates and the carryover of any surplus funds from any expiring special assessment district will be held at the **Paw Paw Township Hall at 114 N. Gremps, Paw Paw, Michigan** commencing at **6:00 p.m. on August 11, 2025**. At the hearing, the Board will consider any written objections and comments to any of the foregoing matters which are filed with the clerk at or before the hearing and any objections or comments raised at the hearing. If written objections are filed with the township board at or before the hearing, signed by the record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the area within the proposed special assessment district, then the township board may not proceed unless petitions in support of the project, signed by record owners of more than 50% of the area to be made into a special assessment district, are filed with the township. Following the hearing, the township board may revise, correct, amend or change the plans, cost estimates or special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal to the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the special assessment roll is confirmed. An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file at or before the hearing his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. All interested persons are invited to be present in person or by representative and to submit comments concerning the establishment of the special assessment district, the plans, cost estimates or the carryover of surplus funds from any expiring special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if the township board determines to proceed with the special assessments, the board will cause a special assessment roll to be prepared and another hearing will be held, after notice to record owners of property proposed to be specially assessed, to hear public comments concerning the proposed special assessments.

Paw Paw Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk.

Rebecca Payne
Paw Paw Township Clerk
114 N. Gremps Street
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-4340

PUBLIC NOTICE

Almena Township SYNOPSIS
June 18, 2025

Almena Township Board meeting was held June 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Attendance: Tim Kloosterman, John Wagner, Kelly Redmond, Scott Rueff, Mark Roman, Sandra Rickli. Absent: Joe Leduc

a. Motion to appoint Kelly Redmond to chair the meeting
b. Motion to approve amended agenda
c. Motion to approve amended meeting minutes of May 21, 2025
d. Motion to approve special meeting minutes of May 21, 2025
e. Disbursements approved in the amount of $600,730.18
f. Mattawan/Paw Paw Fire Dept. reports
g. Public comment offered
h. Reports by officers presented
i. Motion to approve Supervisor spending $500 for July to Paw Paw Senior Services
j. Motion to approve Resolution B2025-09 amending the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget as presented
k. Motion to reappoint Kris Nelson for three year term on the PC
l. Public comment offered
m. Meeting adjourned 7:58pm

Sandra Rickli, Clerk, Almena Township

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 36TH CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
Case No. 24- 0000074357-CH
HON. SUSAN METZGER
BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Plaintiff,
v
UNKNOWN DOES, Defendant(s).

Shane A. Henry (P82054)
WHEELER UPHAM, P.C.
Attorney for Plaintiff
250 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 100
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 459-7100
henry@wuattorneys.com

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
A hearing will take place on August 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. on Plaintiff's Motion for Entry of a Default Judgment. The hearing will take place in the 36th Circuit Court of Van Buren County, before the Honorable Susan Metzger, via Zoom, having Zoom ID 277 444 5820 - Virtual Room 3. Please take note that a default was entered by the Clerk of the Court on April 28, 2025, and Plaintiff is now seeking to enter a default judgment, which shall quiet title in the property located at 202 W. Exchange St., Gobles, MI 49055, in favor of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

WHEELER UPHAM, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff
By: Shane A. Henry (P82054)
250 Monroe Ave., N.W., Suite 100
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 459-7100

07-22-2025

State of Michigan Probate Court Van buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1108 • Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of Charles Louis Lynch II
Date of Birth: November 14,1957
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles Louis Lynch II, died April 13, 2025 (4/13/2025)
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Charles L. Lunch III, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 25,2025

Attorney
Willis Law
Miriko C. Willis P81915
491 W. South St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 492-1040
Personal Representative
Charles L. Lynch III
254 St. Marys Lake Road
Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269) 760-4692

State of Michigan Probate Court Van buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1113 • Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of Judith E. Haefner
Date of Birth: February 15, 1941
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Judith E. Haefner, died July 7, 2025 (7/7/2025)
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kimberly Gaedeke, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 25,2025

Attorney
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Tony Schuitmaker P48698
181 West Michigan Ave.,
Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative
Kimberly Gaedeke
12266 Wendover Drive
Plumouth, MI 48170
(248) 330-0868

State of Michigan Probate Court Van buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1111
Estate of Tayler Dawn McKie-Smith
Date of Birth: March 30,1998
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Tayler Dawn McKie-Smith May 10, 2025 (5/10/2025)
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Caleb D. Smith personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 24,2025

Attorney
Ajay Gupta P45739
P.O.Box 428
Troy, MI 48099-0428
(313) 849-0567
Personal Representative
Caleb D. Smith
71320 48th Ave.
Watervliet, MI 49098
(269) 759-9494

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: JAMIE HANNAR; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 7/24/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-009166; INSURER: FNMA
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on AUGUST 21, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jamie Hannar, an unmarried woman, to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated June 26, 2008 and recorded June 30, 2008 in Liber 1504, Page 243 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on July 11, 2011, in Liber 1553, Page 184, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank N.A. as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Five and 9/100 Dollars ($121,965.09).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on AUGUST 21, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Porter, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Beginning at a point 20 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 15, Town 4 North, Range 13 West; thence West 10 rods; thence South 20 rods; thence East 10 rods; thence North 20 rods to beginning.
81202 County Road 652, Lawton, Michigan 49065
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: July 24, 2025
File No. 25-009166
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(07-24)(08-14)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: WILLIAM ENGEL; ATTY: TEAM X; 1ST PUB: 7/24/2025; ATTY FILE #: 040244F08; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on August 21, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): William Engel, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Indenture Trustee, successor in interest to U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee for SASCO Mortgage Loan Trust 2004-GEL3
Date of Mortgage: April 23, 2004
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 30, 2004
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $88,190.20
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The Easterly 550 feet of the following: that part of the Northwest quarter of Section 18, Town 3 South, Range 13 West described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 18, Town 3 South, Range 13 West, thence South 00 degree 13 minutes 51 seconds West, 202.09 feet along the East line of the Northeast quarter of said Section 18 to the center line of Highway I-94; thence South 60 degrees 28 minutes 4 seconds West, 3688.30 feet; thence South 172.15 to the Southerly right

Continues on page 11

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MSHDA'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW HOME REHAB PROJECT

The Village of Paw Paw will conduct a public hearing on August 11, 2025 at 7:00PM in the Community Room at the Paw Paw Community Library located at 609 W Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, MI 49079 for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a MSHDA CDBG grant.

The Village of Paw Paw proposes to use $472,000 CDBG funds for repairs and improvements to homes located within the Village and occupied by low and moderate-income homeowners to address health, safety and energy efficiency needs. The project will benefit at least 51% low to moderate income persons. Zero persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed project during the above listed public hearing or in advance of the hearing in writing. To submit written comments in advance of the meeting, contact the Village Clerk at **k.tacy@pawpaw.net** or (269) 657-3148 no later than 10:00AM on August 4, 2025. Alternatively, comments may be submitted in writing to the Village Clerk at 111 E. Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 179, Paw Paw, MI 49079.

If you are disabled and require reasonable accommodation for this meeting, contact the Village Clerk at least two business days before the meeting in writing at 111 E. Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 179, Paw Paw, MI 49079 or by telephone at (269) 657-3148.

Bryan Myrkle
Village Manager
The Village of Paw Paw

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MSHDA'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE CITY OF GOBLES HOME REHAB PROJECT

The City of Gobles will conduct a public hearing on August 19, 2025 at 6:00PM at 105 E Main St, Gobles, MI 49055 for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a MSHDA CDBG grant.

The City of Gobles proposes to use $400,000 CDBG funds for repairs and improvements to homes located within the City and occupied by low and moderate-income homeowners to address health, safety and energy efficiency needs. The project will benefit at least 51% low to moderate income persons. Zero persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed project during the above listed public hearing or in advance of the hearing in writing. To submit written comments in advance of the meeting, contact the City Clerk at **cityofgobles1@frontier.com** or 269-628-2246 no later than 10:00AM on August 12, 2025. Alternatively, comments may be submitted in writing to the City Clerk at 105 E Main St, Gobles, MI 49055.

If you are disabled and require reasonable accommodation for this meeting, contact the City Clerk at least two business days before the meeting in writing at 105 E Main St, Gobles, MI 49055 or by telephone at 269-628-2246.

Carol Johson
City Mayor
The City of Gobles

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PAW PAW TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Paw Paw Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding amendments to the Zoning Ordinance related to indoor recreation facilities and mini/self-storage facilities:

- Amend Section 42-2.02 to include the definitions of indoor recreational facilities and mini/self-storage facilities.
- Amend Section 42-5.10.C to revise a related term used in the section to indoor recreational facilities and to pull out the theatre separately in the GC zoning district.
- Amend Section 42-5.12.B to include mini/self-storage facilities as a permitted use in the HCI zoning district.
- Amend Section 42-5.12.C to include indoor recreational facilities as a special land use in the HCI zoning district.
- Amend Section 42-8.16 Mini/self-storage facilities to strike the two-acre minimum lot size and allow individual suites for personal and business use.
- Amend Section 42-9.12 to include parking requirements for indoor recreational facilities.

The public is invited to comment on the matter. The meeting information is below:

- Location: Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079
- Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025
- Time: 6:00 PM
- Hearing and project information: call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date.

If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days before the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MSHDA'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR HOME REHAB PROJECT

The Village of Decatur will conduct a public hearing on August 4, 2025, at 7:00PM at 114 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045, for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a MSHDA CDBG grant.

The Village of Decatur proposes to use $472,000 CDBG funds for repairs and improvements to homes located within the Village and occupied by low and moderate-income homeowners to address health, safety and energy efficiency needs. The project will benefit at least 51% low to moderate income persons. Zero persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed project during the above listed public hearing or in advance of the hearing in writing. To submit written comments in advance of the meeting, contact the Village Clerk at **mduncan@decaturmi.us** or 269.423.6114 no later than 10:00AM on August 4, 2025. Alternatively, comments may be submitted in writing to the Village Clerk at 114 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045.

If you are disabled and require reasonable accommodation for this meeting, contact the Village Clerk at least two business days before the meeting in writing at 114 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, MI 49045 or by telephone at 269.423.6114.

Megan Duncan
Village Clerk/Treasurer
The Village of Decatur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues on page 11

of way line of I-94 and the place of beginning of this description thence continuing South in the center of a road described in Liber 148 of Deeds on Page 134 to a point which is East of a point on the West Section line of said Section 18 which point is 40.35 chains (2663.10 feet) North to the Southwest corner of Section 18; thence West to the Southerly right of way line of said I-94; thence Northeasterly along said Southerly right of way to Place of Beginning.
Common street address (if any): 59443 S Lagrave St, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9272
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 24, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1567326

(07-24)(08-14)

Van Buren; Mtgr: Steven P Koenig; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 7/31/2025; Atty File #: 20-000386-2; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on August 28, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Steven P. Koenig, AKA Steven Koenig, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: June 1, 2004 Recorded on June 9, 2004, Liber 1415, on Page 570, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-3 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight and 45/100 Dollars ($40,268.45) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Commencing at a point found by starting at the Northwest corner of Section 28, Town 4 South, Range 13 West. Thence Easterly on the Section line 99 rods, thence South parallel with the West line of said Section 2814 feet, thence South 33 degrees 48` West 356 feet to the point of beginning of this description, thence continuing South 33 degrees 48` West 60 feet, thence South 52 degrees 8` East to Cedar Lake, thence Northeasterly along said Lake to a point which is South 51 degrees 52` East from said point of beginning, thence North 51 degrees 52` West to said point of beginning. Also, a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress in common with others beginning at a point found by commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 28, Town 4 South, Range 13 West; thence Easterly on the North line of said Section, 99 rods; thence South parallel with the West line of said Section, 2814 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 48` West 536 feet; thence North 52 degrees 34` West 33.07 feet; thence North 33 degrees 48` East 464.57 feet; thence North parallel with the West line of said Section to the centerline of Shaw Road; thence Easterly along said centerline to a point 99 rods Easterly of the West line of said Section 28; thence South to said point of beginning. Commonly known as 29383 Shaw Rd, Lawton, MI 49065 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-3 Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1568194

(07-31)(08-21)

VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2025-2026 COUNTY BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on August 12, 2025 at 12:50 p.m. a Public Hearing will be held for all interested citizens of Van Buren County.

The Hearing will be held in the Board of Commissioners Room, 219 E. Paw Paw Street, 2nd Floor, Paw Paw, Michigan to consider the county's proposed 2025 - 2026 Budget. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** Electronic meeting notification will be posted on the Board of Commissioners site at: **https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/129/Agendas-Minutes**

A copy of the proposed 2025 - 2026 budget is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the County Clerk's Office, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan and on the County website at: **www.vanburencountymi.gov**

Van Buren County will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at any meeting/ hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioner's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Van Buren County by writing Emani Tunstall, 219 E. Paw Paw St., Suite 201, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, or by calling the Board of Commissioners' Office at 269.657.8253.

Suzie Roehm, Van Buren County Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PAW PAW TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Paw Paw Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing regarding the following request. The public is invited to comment on the matter.
Application:
- Request: The following variance requests relate to Chapter 42, Article 6, Attachment 3 of the Paw Paw Township Zoning Ordinance (dimensional requirements).
  - Variance for a replacement deck to be placed six feet from the side property line instead of the required 15-foot setback.
  - Variance for a replacement sunroom to be placed 14 feet from the side property line instead of the required 15-foot setback.
- Zoning District: Waterfront Area (WFA)
- Project Address: 68124 Park Drive, Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Project Parcel Number: 80-14-660-032-01
- Applicant: Dwayne A. Herd

Meeting Information:
- Location: Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079
- Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Hearing and project information: call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Zoning Board of Appeals Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date.
If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT REQUEST and PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pine Grove Township Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing and meeting on August 18, 2025, commencing at 6:00 p.m. at the Pine Grove Township Hall, 26520 CR 388, Gobles, MI 49055, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing for a special land use permit request from Doug & Christina Smith, for property owned at 33166 20th Ave, Gobles, MI 49055 (Parcel No. 80-15-031-011-60) to allow the construction of a 448 square foot (s.f.) detached accessory building on otherwise vacant land. Section 8.01 of the Zoning Ordinance allows accessory structures on otherwise vacant only by a special land use permit. The subject property is located in the A - Agricultural Zoning Classification and I -Industrial Zoning Classification. The proposed location of the accessory building is in the A – Agricultural Zoning Classification. The parcel is +/- 13.78 acres in size. Standards for consideration of the special use request are contained in Sections 7.02, 7.03, 7.04 and 8.01 of the Pine Grove Township Zoning Ordinance.
2. A public hearing for a conditional rezoning request from Brent Roush of Leaders RPM for property owned at 13157 and 13035 M-40, (Parcel Nos. 80-15-019-011-10 & 80-15-019-011-02). The applicant has requested both parcels be conditionally rezoned from their current C-1-Neighborhood Commercial and A-Agricultural Zoning Classifications to the I-Industrial Zoning Classification with conditions. The requested rezoning would limit the use to Indoor and Outdoor Storage. The parcels total +/- 4.39 acres. Standards for consideration of conditional rezoning are contained in Section 11.05 of the Pine Grove Zoning Ordinance.

Anyone interested in reviewing the application referenced above, the Township Zoning Map, or the Township Zoning Ordinance may examine a copy by contacting the undersigned clerk of the township via telephone or email and/or by appointment with the same at the Township Hall. The completed application with supporting documentation will be available at the meeting. The Township Zoning Ordinance can be accessed on **www.municode.com.**

Written comments will be received from any interested persons concerning the foregoing by the Pine Grove Township Clerk at the Township Hall at any time during regular business hours up to the date of the hearing and may be further received by the Planning Commission at the hearing.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

Pine Grove Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Pine Grove Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Pine Grove Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
By: Jim Kehoe, Chairman
Michelle Meert, Township Clerk **pinegroveclerk@yahoo.com**
Mailing Address: 26520 CR 388, Gobles, MI 49055
(269) 628-4380
www.pinegrovetwp.org

ANTWERP TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Ackley Lake Eradication Special Assessment District

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board held a public hearing on July 8, 2025 where the Board heard comments and objections to the creation of Eradication of special assessment district and the proposed cost estimate for eradication of invasive species. The Board intends to consider a resolution approving the validity of the petitions, creating the special assessment district and approving the cost estimate at its regular Board meeting on August 12,2025.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will also hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, August 12,2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall, 24821 Front Avenue Mattawan, MI 49071,** to review and hear any objections regarding the special assessment roll which spreads the 2025 cost and expenses on all lots and parcels located within the 13 lot owners along Ackley Lake residing in Antwerp Township, pursuant to Act 188 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1954, as amended. The special assessments on the roll are to be billed with the December 2025 winter tax bill.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the amount proposed to be assessed to each of the 13 lot owners within the Antwerp Township along Ackley Lake Eradication of invasive species will be **$196.86** for 2025 winter tax bill.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the proposed special assessment roll may be inspected at the office of the Township Clerk, 24821 Front Avenue Mattawan, MI 49071, within the Township on regular business days of such office and may also be inspected at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at the public hearing, the Township Board will review said proposed special assessment roll and any comments or objections thereto which may be made or filed with the Board at, or prior to, the time of said public hearing, and will consider any revisions, amendments or changes to said proposed special assessment roll.

Appearance and protest at this public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the proposed special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner or party in interest or his or her agent may appear in person at this hearing to protest the special assessment or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance to protest by letter received at or before the public hearing. If such letter of protest is filed, personal appearance of the person protesting will not be required.

An owner or person having an interest in the parcel or lot being assessed, who has appeared at the hearing in the manner herein before indicated, may file a written appeal of his or her or its special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within a maximum of thirty (30) days after confirmation of the special assessment roll by the Township Board.

Antwerp Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon three (3) days' notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Clerk, Chantel Reyna, at the address or telephone number listed below.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the time and place to submit comments concerning any of the foregoing, or to protest the proposed special assessment roll.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Chantel Reyna, Clerk
Antwerp Township
24821 Front Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2615

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STEAK sale!

VILLAGE MARKET
FOOD CENTERS
YOUR HOMETOWN STORE

2025: AD EFFECTIVE DATES

MON. JULY 28	TUES. JULY 29	WED. JULY 30	THUR. JULY 31	FRI. AUG. 1	SAT. AUG. 2	SUN. AUG. 3

Village Market, All Natural
Pork Baby Back Ribs
BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE
FREE!

Fresh Chicken Drumsticks
Regular or Smokehouse Dry Rub BBQ Seasoned
BUY ONE PKG., GET ONE PKG. OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE
FREE!

True Blue Farm Michigan Blueberries
pint

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $3.99 on 2

Select Varieties
Fresh Express Salad Kits
5 - 11 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $4.99 on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Sandwich Bags
30 - 150 ct.

BUY ONE, GET ONE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE
FREE!
Save at least $2.39 on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Pasta
12 - 16 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $1.99 on 2

Select Varieties
Pasta Roni or Rice A Roni
4.3 - 7.2 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $2.50 on 2

Select Varieties
Noosa Yogurt
4.5 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $1.50 on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Sour Cream or French Onion Dip
8 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $1.69 on 2

Select Varieties
Kellogg's Cereal
7.8 - 12.6 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $5.99 on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Potato Chips
7.75 - 8 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $3.99 on 2

Select Varieties
Stroh's Ice Cream
48 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE!
Save at least $6.99 on 2

We reserve the right to limit quantities. We are not providing rain checks due to supply chain issues.

Fresh Produce

At Great Prices!

Seedless Watermelon
each
$4.99

Extra Large Seedless Green or Red Grapes
$2.99 lb.

Home Grown
Sweet Corn
5/$2

Our Family Whole Mushrooms
12 oz.
2/$4

Our Family Idaho Russet Potatoes
8 lb.
$2.99

Sweet Vidalia Onions
$1.29 lb.

Organic PRODUCE

Select Varieties

Organic Green or Red Seedless Grapes
$3.49 lb.

Organic Sunset Angel Sweet Tomatoes
pint
$3.49

Earthbound Farm Organic Salad Mixes
5 oz.
$4.99

floral center

10-Stem
Michigan Gladiolas
each
$6.99

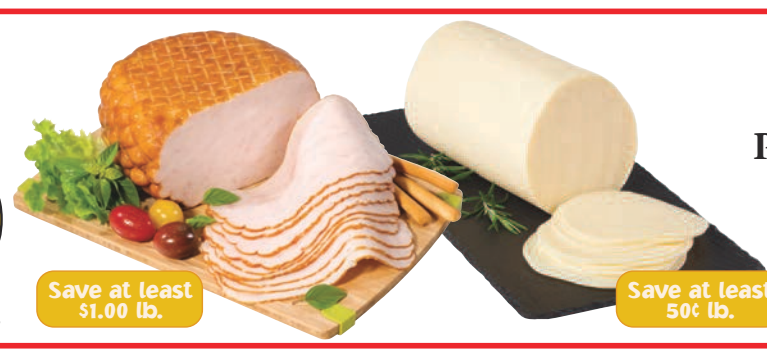
Watermelon Bouquet
each
$14.99

Fresh Deli

DIETZ & WATSON

Available At Our Colon, Decatur & Gobles Locations Only.

Assorted Varieties
Dietz & Watson Chicken Breast
$10.99 lb.



Dietz & Watson Provolone Cheese
$7.49 lb.

Grab 'N Go
12-Piece Deli Fried Chicken
$17.99
Save at least $1.00

Deep Fried Chicken Wing Zings
$7.99 lb.
Save at least 50¢ lb.

Select Varieties
BelGioioso Italian Cheese Cups
5 oz.
$3.99
Save at least 60¢

Reser's Sour Cream Cheddar Macaroni Salad
$3.99 lb.
Save at least 60¢

Rice or Tapioca Pudding
$3.99 lb.
Save at least $1.30 lb.

$5.99 Daily Lunch Specials

Monday - Friday 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Monday, July 28:
1/2 Panini of the Day
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Tuesday, July 29:
Chopped Steak
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Wednesday, July 30:
3-Piece Dark Meat Chicken
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side **(Limit 1 Breast)**

Thursday, July 31:
Pork Chops
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Friday, Aug. 1:
Chicken Tenders
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Fresh Bakery

Not Available In All Stores.

Fresh Baked
Old World Italian or Asiago Bread
20 oz.
$3.29
Save at least 70¢

Fresh Baked
Kaiser Buns
6 ct.
$2.99
Save at least 70¢

Fresh Baked
Blueberry Pie
8-Inch
$7.99
Save at least $1.00

Two Bite Cinnamon Roll Tubs
10.5 oz.
$5.49
Save at least 50¢

Fresh Baked
Glazed Iced Croissants
2 ct.
$2.69
Save at least 30¢

Assorted Varieties
Sliced Loaf Cakes
14 oz.
(includes blueberry)
$6.59
Save at least 40¢

TENDER RIDGE ANGUS
TENDERNESS AT ITS PEAK

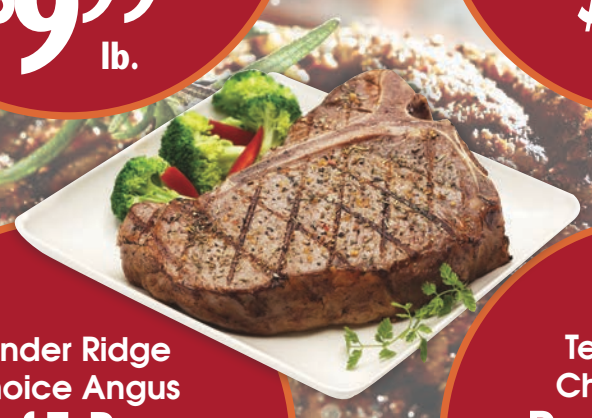
STEAK sale!

Tender Ridge Choice Angus
Boneless Beef Chuck Tender Steak
$7.99 lb.

Tender Ridge Choice Angus
Boneless Beef Sirloin Tip Steak
$9.99 lb.

Tender Ridge Angus
Boneless Beef Bottom Round Steak
$7.69 lb.

Tender Ridge Choice Angus
Semi-Boneless Beef New York Strip Steak
$12.99 lb.



Tender Ridge Choice Angus
Beef T-Bone Steak
$13.99 lb.

Tender Ridge Choice Angus
Porterhouse Steak
$14.49 lb.

Village Market Certified Fresh
Ground Beef
5 lb. or more pkg.
$4.99 lb.

Certified Fresh Ground Beef 3 lb. or more pkg. $5.29 lb.

Village Market Fresh
Bulk Chicken Drumsticks
5 lb. bag
$4.99

All Natural Fresh, Grade A Open Acres Split Chicken Breast $2.19 lb.

Village Market Fresh
Ground Beef Burger Patties
Family Pack
$5.99 lb.

Village Market All-Natural, Fresh
Boneless Pork Tenderloin
$3.49 lb.

Butcher Shoppe Specialties

Village Market Store Made
Pork or Chicken Kabobs
$8.99 lb.

Village Market Store Made
Brats
Featuring: Pepperjack or Spinach and Mushroom
$3.99 lb.

Village Market Store Made
Fresh Maple Bulk Pork Sausage
$3.29 lb.

Village Market Store Made
Cheddar Pork Link Sausage
Family Pack
$3.99 lb.

Select Varieties
Oscar Mayer Hot Dogs or Franks
(16 oz.), or Smokies Smoked Sausage (14 oz.)
2/$7

Select Varieties
Eckrich Sausage Links, Grillers or Sausages
8.3 - 14 oz.
2/$7

Premium
Smithfield Sliced Bacon
16 oz.
$5.99

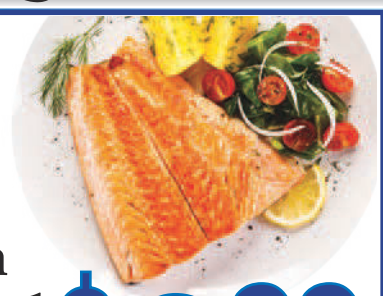
Select Varieties
Smithfield Prime Fresh Lunch Meat
7 - 8 oz.
$3.99

MorningStar Farms Assorted Frozen Varieties
5.25 - 10.5 oz.
2/$7 When You Buy 2

Lesser or More Qty.'s $4.50 Each

Select Varieties
Oscar Mayer Uploaded Lunchables
13.9 - 15.46 oz.
$3.99

tasty seafood



Farm Raised Coho Salmon
$8.99 lb.

Superior Select Smoked Whitefish Spreads
7 oz. $5.99

Peeled & Deveined, Tail-On
Our Family Cooked Shrimp
31 - 40 ct., 16 oz. $8.99

Peeled & Deveined
Our Family Raw Shrimp
21 - 25 ct., 16 oz. $8.69

AquaStar Peppercorn Salmon
1.25 lb.
$13.99

Blueberry Sale

True Blue Farm Michigan Blueberries
5 lb. box

$15.99

Store Made Blueberry Brats
$3.49 lb.

Calhoun Bend Mix
Blueberry Crumble, Cobbler Peach, Crisp Apple or Crunch Cherry
8 oz.

2/$7

Our Family Blueberry Pie Filling
21 oz.

$3.99

Martha White Muffin Mix
Blueberry Cheesecake or Blueberry Muffin
7 oz.

2/$3

Betty Crocker Blueberry Muffin Mix
6.5 oz.

3/$4

Krusteaz Gluten Free Blueberry Muffin Mix
15.7 oz.

$4.99

Krusteaz Wild Blueberry Muffin Mix
14.1 oz.

$3.99

Breakfast Bargains

Store Made Original Bulk Pork Sausage
Family Pack

$2.99 lb.

Select Varieties Our Family Coffee K-Cups
12 ct.

$5.99

Select Varieties Our Family Ground or Whole Bean Coffee
10 - 12 oz.

$6.99

Select Varieties Kellogg's Pop-tarts
(12 ct.), Bites or Poppers (5 - 7 oz.)

$3.49

Select Varieties Jimmy Dean Breakfast Bowls
7 oz.

3/$10

Select Varieties Our Family Waffles or Pancakes
10 - 12 ct.

2/$5

Mr. Dell's Southern Style or Regular Hash Browns
30 - 32 oz.

$3.99

Select Varieties Our Family Bagels
Everything or Plain
20 oz.

2/$6

Select Varieties Dutch Farms Cream Cheese
8 oz.

2/$4

Select Varieties Our Family Instant Oatmeal
8 - 12 ct.

2/$5

Select Varieties Our Family Granola
11 - 12 oz.

2/$6

Select Varieties Kellogg's Cereal
7.8 - 12.6 oz.

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!

Select Varieties Our Family Cereal
28 - 32 oz.

$3.99

savings - selection - service - quality - value

Assorted Varieties
Coca-Cola Products
6 pk., 7.5 oz. mini cans
(plus deposit)
$4.99

Assorted Varieties
Coca-Cola Products
12 pk., 12 oz. cans
(plus deposit)
2/$15

Assorted Varieties
Dasani Water
(24 pk.) or **Monster Energy Drinks**
(4 pk., 16 oz. cans)
(plus deposit)
$6.99

Save at least $4.98 on 2

Select Varieties
Jax Cheese Curls
8.5 oz.
2/$6

Select Varieties
Zapps Kettle Chips
8 oz.
2/$6

Save at least $4.79 on 2

Assorted Varieties
Pepsi Products
6 pk., 16.9 oz. btls.
(plus deposit) or **Propel** (6 pk., 16.9 oz. btls.)

3/$13

Assorted Varieties
Pepsi Products
(24 pk., 12 oz. cans)
(plus deposit)
or **Gatorade** (18 pk.)
$10.99

Save at least $6.47 on 3

Select Varieties
Doritos Tortilla Chips
(9 - 10.75 oz.) or **Ruffles Potato Chips** (5.5 - 8.5 oz.)
2/$8

Save at least $3.98 on 2

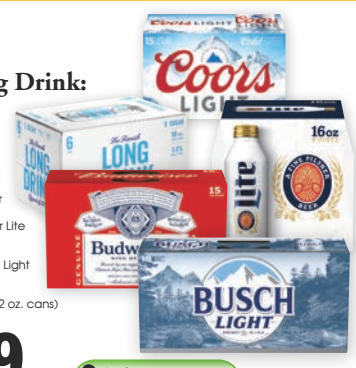
Mars Gummies
Gummisaver Collision, Skittles Original Gummies, Gummisavers Flavor or Gummisavers Wild Berry
5.8 - 7 oz.
$1.79

Save at least $1.00 on 1

Select Varieties
Cheez-It, Oyster, Toasteds or Town House Crackers, 9 - 21 oz.
$5.49

Save at least 50¢ on 1

Coors: Light or Banquet or **Miller Lite** (15 pk., 12 oz. cans),
The Finnish Long Drink: Traditional, Zero, Cranberry or Peach (6 pk.),
Coors: Banquet or Light or **Miller Lite** (9 pk., 16 oz. aluminum btl.),
Coors: Banquet or Light or or **Miller:** Genuine Draft or Lite (12 pk. btls.),
Budweiser: Regular or Light (15 pk. cans) or
Busch Light (18 pk., 12 oz. cans)
(plus deposit)
$12.99



Save at least $1.00 on 1

Red Vines Original Red Twists
14 oz.
2/$5

Save at least $2.38 on 2

Assorted Varieties
Glacéau Smart Water
1 liter
2/$4

Assorted Varieties
Lipton Tea
(12 pk., 16.9 oz. btls.) or
Pure Leaf Tea (6 pk., 16.9 oz.)
$5.99

Assorted Varieties
Smirnoff Ice
6 pk.
$9.99

Assorted Varieties
St. Julian Drinks
750 ml
$9.99

Franzia Wine
Chillable Red, Rhine Crisp White, Red Sangria or Sunset Blush
5 liter
$17.99

Select Varieties
Honey Maid Graham Crackers
12.2 - 14.4 oz.
2/$9

Select Varieties
Planters Peanuts
16 oz.
2/$7

Select Varieties
Aunt Millie's Stadium Buns
(6 - 8 ct.), **Homestyle or Family Style Bread** (22 oz.) or **Homestyle Buns**
(8 ct.)
2/$5

Save at least $2.38 on 2

Select Varieties
Jell-O Gelatin or Pudding Mix
.3 - 3.9 oz.
2/$3

Save at least 38¢ on 2

Select Varieties
Dawn Dishsoap
10.1 - 18 oz.
2/$6

Save at least $1.58 on 2

Select Varieties
Cascade Dishwasher Pacs
9 - 25 ct.
$5.49

Select Varieties
Our Family Ketchup
(24 oz. squeeze) or **Mustard** (12 oz.)
2/$3

Save at least 78¢ on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Pasta Sauce
24 oz.
2/$4

Save at least 50¢ on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Ultra Bath Tissue
12 Rolls
$9.99

Save at least $4.50 on 1

Select Varieties
Brawny Paper Towels
3-Ply
6 ct. double roll
$11.99

Select Varieties
Cheetos Mac N Cheese
5.6 - 5.9 oz.
3/$4

Select Varieties
Knorr Pasta or Rice Sides
4 - 5.7 oz.
3/$4

Select Varieties
Chicken of the Sea Canned Fish
2.5 - 5 oz.
3/$4

Cheez-It Grab 'N Go Single Serve
Original or White Cheddar
3 oz.
3/$4

Select Varieties
Downy Liquid Fabric Enhancer
88 oz.
$9.99

Select Varieties
Tide Liquid Laundry Detergent
84 oz.
$13.49

Save at least $1.50 on 1

dairy savings - dairy savings

Select Varieties
Our Family Milk
half gallon
$2.19
Save at least 50¢ on 1

Select Varieties
Kemps Orange Juice
half gallon
$3.99
Save at least $2.00 on 1

Select Varieties
Country Fresh TruMoo Milk
half gallon
$2.99
Save at least $1.00 on 1

Select Varieties
Kozy Shack Pudding
6 pk. or 22 oz.
$3.99
Save at least 70¢ on 1

Select Varieties
Our Family Shredded Cheese
32 oz.
$6.99
Save at least $2.50 on 1

Our Family Half & Half
16 oz.
$1.99
Save at least 40¢ on 1

Dutch Farms Cheese Melt Processed Loaf
2 lb.
$5.99
Save at least $2.00 on 1

Select Varieties
Dutch Farm Cheese Cups
5 oz.
$2.99
Save at least $1.00 on 1

frozen favorites - frozen favorites

Select Varieties
Stroh's Ice Cream
48 oz.
BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!
Save at least $6.99 on 2

Our Family Ice Cream Cones
Sugar or Cake
12 ct.
$1.69

Select Varieties
TombStone Pizza
Original
20.6 - 22.1 oz.
2/$8
Save at least $4.98 on 2

Select Varieties
Our Family Syrup
22 - 24 oz.
$2.69
Save at least 50¢ on 1

Select Varieties
Dean's Country Fresh Ice Cream Novelties
4 pk.
2/$7
Save at least $2.48 on 2

Our Family Garlic Bread, Texas Toast or Breadsticks
11.5 - 16 oz.
2/$5
Save at least 69¢ on 2

Select Varieties
Hungry Man Frozen Dinners
14.5 -1 6 oz.
$3.99
Save at least $1.00 on 1

Select Varieties
Banquet Pot Pies
7 oz.
3/$4
Save at least 17¢ on 3

Select Varieties
Totino's Rolls
100 ct.
$9.99
Save at least $3.00 on 1

health & beauty and general merchandise

Bug Spray

Coleman Yard & Camp Fogger
16 oz.
$8.99

Select Varieties
Off! Bug Spray
4 - 6 oz.
$9.99

Raid Flying Insect Killer
18 oz.
$7.99

Raid Wasp & Hornet BNS
17.5 oz.
$7.39

Select Varieties
Simply Done Batteries
2 - 8 ct. **$6.99**

Simply Done Light Bulbs
LED A19 2700K DIM 60 W
4 pk. **$9.99**

Simply Done Broom with Dust Pan
each **$12.99**

Simply Done Invisible or Masking Tape
1 ct. ..... **2/$3**

TopCare

TopCare Allergy Tabs or Softgels
24 ct.
$2.99

Select Varieties
TopCare Cough Drops
25 - 30 ct.
2/$3

TopCare Cold or Flu Relief Day or Night Softgels
16 ct.
$4.99

Select Varieties
TopCare Bandages
10 - 60 ct.
2/$3

Select Varieties
TopCare Liquid Hand Soap
7.5 oz.
2/$3

TopCare Dental Floss
Regular or Mint Waxed
100 yd.
$1.99

Select Varieties
TopCare Razor Single Blade Disposable
(6 ct.), **Net Sponge** (1 ct.), **Nailcare** (1 - 16 ct.), **Cotton Balls Triple Sized** (100 ct.) or **Toothbrush** (1 ct.)
4/$5

TopCare Aloe Vera Gel
16 oz. **$3.99**

Select Varieties
Colgate Toothpaste
(4.6 - 5.1), **Mouthwash** (1 liter) or **Toothbrush** (1 ct.) **$4.99**

Select Varieties
Old Spice or Secret Deodorant
2.6 - 3.25 oz. ..... **2/$9**

Select Varieties
Softsoap Body Wash
20 oz. **$6.99**

Select Varieties
Irish Spring Body Wash
20 oz. **$5.99**

Select Varieties
Coppertone Sunscreen
(.49 - 6 oz.) or **Hawaiian Tropic Sun Lotion or Tanning Oil**
(6 - 8 oz.)
$9.99

Select Varieties
Boost Regular or High Protein Shakes
6 pk.
$11.99

Select Varieties
VO5 Shampoo or Conditioner
15 oz.
3/$4

Select Varieties
Herbal Essences or Pantene Pro-V Shampoo or Conditioner
(7 - 12 oz.) or **Herbal Essences Detangling Spray** (7 oz.)
$4.99

We reserve the right to limit quantities & are not responsible for pictorial or typographical errors. Items with a purchase requirement exclude alcohol, tobacco, lottery, stamps, gift cards, Western Union & money orders.

Visit our website for Weekly Specials, Great Recipe Ideas and Up-Coming Events!
Come check it out at:
www.villagemarketfoodcenters.com

Store Hours:

- Allegan: Open 6AM - 12AM 7 Days!
- Colon, Decatur & Gobles: Open 7AM - 10PM 7 Days!

We double manufacturer coupons up to and including 50¢ Tuesdays & Sundays! (see store for details)

VILLAGE MARKET FOOD CENTERS

IN-AD COUPON PLU 37

5% Senior Discount
(55 & Older)
WEDNESDAY ONLY
(Excluding Alcohol, Tobacco Products, lottery, stamps, gift cards, Western Union and money orders)
PLEASE PRESENT COUPON BEFORE STARTING PURCHASE.
COUPON VALID WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025 ONLY!